

## **SECTION III**

### **DESCENDANTS OF ELIJAH CROSWELL** *and Related Families*

compiled by  
Tim Croswell M.Ed.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### INTRODUCTION

#### *Acknowledgement*

The research on the Croswell family has taken many years to research. I am indebted to Raymond and Anita Croswell for helping this writer to become a really good researcher. Raymond and Anita have travelled hundreds of miles, written hundred of letters, to establish the identity of the Croswell family.

I hope anyone in the future reading this work will stop for a moment and say "thanks" to Raymond and Anita for being persistent enough to see this work through. There were hundred of times that I would have given up had it not been for them.

I think it would be safe to say, that we have read and researched almost every Croswell that there is any information about. We have accumulated hundreds of pages of information and letters over the last decade of really hard work.

I am very proud of having known Raymond and Anita and their family. It is without hesitation that we say to Raymond and Anita "We Love You" and dedicate our portion of the Croswell family history to you.

Tim Croswell, M.Ed.  
Mary C. Hardy Croswell

#### *Croswell History*

The Croswell name is of English origin. From all accounts the Croswell's left England and came to this country while the United States were still colonies of England. This will put the early Croswell families from Maine to South Carolina.

I think that all of the Croswell families in the United States go back to Thomas who was born in England in 1633 and landed in the colony of Boston, Mass. in 1655. However, it is sad to say that no one has been able to link the Northern and Southern Croswell families together. There is a simple explanation for this! The lack of recorded information! The early Croswell's were affluent and their history can be easily traced through their records.

The problem came from a break in the chain of education. When the Croswell's reached the Carolina's in the 1800's circumstances of the time prevented some of these Croswell's from receiving an education. This is the most tragic event that can happen to any family, because you become dependent on society to see that records are accurately kept. That doesn't even happen in the 1990's in the age of electronics. Errors are made and if the individual doesn't correct them, they remain a part of the historical record.

When the Croswell's reached the Carolina's they were caught up in the westward movement or migration as most Americans were. The thoughts of cheap, rich farmland caused many Americans to keep moving westward.

The Croswell's moving westward through Georgia and Alabama into Mississippi did not perceive an education to be a necessary attribute to farming. Hard work and a strong belief in God were the only qualifications the early settlers thought necessary for a success in their agriculture endeavors. It certainly would be argued to the contrary today, when we know the opposite to be true. When the break in the educational cycle came, it created an enormous problem for researchers in the future. The early Croswell families were illiterate but not without the ability to succeed because they did. The problem for us today is that the only trail they left behind were official records. This meant that it would be left to anyone recording information to correctly obtain it. The further Westward the settlers came, the less educated we find all the people. Therefore, the officials spelled words by the way they sounded and this is the biggest problem of all. The problem of taking sketchy records and trying to tie variant spelling together was a task at times that seemed impossible. Nicknames were used, partial names were used and so the impossible task of tying the Northern and Southern Croswell families together developed.

Seemingly, all these families would want to know their roots but not so! There are some Croswell



families who do not care, some who do not have time to care, and thank goodness some that will do anything to help. Worldwide there are only four hundred or so families who bear the Croswell name. This certainly cut down on the available families who can or will help.

Raymond and I do not know for any amount of certainly that his Eli and my Elijah were brothers. I claim Raymond as kin even though in our lifetime we may never have proof positive of this. I think that there is enough available proof that a good supposition can be made that both our families can be traced back to Thomas born in England. If one takes the time to research the available information the old photographs certainly suggest that this is true. The eyes and nose of all the Croswell's seem to have been genetically passed through the generations.

At the end of this history I will offer all the documentation that I have and where it can be found as to how I think the Southern Croswells came to be. I have left it to Raymond and Anita to write the introduction to the book. They have corresponded faithfully with me and I am fully satisfied as to how it is written for our book. The remarks that I will close this book with are simply historical facts that suggest that the link to Thomas can be made. I put them in simply so that anyone in the future who wishes to pursue this history further will have the benefit of my research and perhaps a little easier go of it.

## CHAPTER NINE

## ELIJAH CROSWELL

1817 - 1902

Census records beyond 1850 reflect the head of the house and the number of male and females living in the same household. It is quite difficult if not impossible to learn more than that. From there we can determine who owned land by looking at deeds and patents. However, this will reflect only the male landowners in an area at any given time. Again, we run into trouble because spelling was so poor that we cannot determine for sure who is who.

The 1850 Census of Leake County, Mississippi show Elijah and his family for the first time. Prior to this I believe the Crowell family migrated through Alabama and Georgia from South Carolina. In 1850, Elijah is twenty years old and is married to Kissiah Canich Brown twenty-three years of age. There is even an error here because Elijah was thought to be born sometime around 1817. Elijah and Kissiah will spend the biggest part of their lives in Leake and Scott Counties of Mississippi engaged in farming. There is some evidence to suggest that Elijah's family may be living in the Rankin or Madsion County of Mississippi. The 1850 Census list's the following children of Elijah and Kissiah:

Amanda age 7  
William Washington age 6  
James A. age 5  
Timothy age 2

On the 1870 Census we find the following:

Elijah age 37  
Kissiah age 30\*  
Amanda Jane age 17 born 1843  
William Washington age 15 born 1845  
James A. age 13 born 1847  
Timothy Newton age 11 born 1848  
Adella age 9\* born 1861  
Martha Ann age 7 born 1863  
Mary Ann age 7 born 1863  
Elizabeth age 5 born 1865  
Margaret age 2 born 1867  
Nancy Kissiah age 6/12 born 1870

\*The asterisk indicates names that were mis-spelled on the 1870 Census. This completes Elijah's family so I began trying to find out what happen to each of these family members. I began corresponding with various people to try to find out as much as I could. I was not able to identify all of the marriages of the above children because the girls in particular went by nicknames and I could not decide with certainty who they were. Because of this I will list them in two groups.

Amanda Jane will marry Wesley Moore

William Washington was probably killed in the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas during the Civil War.

It is not known if he married.

James A. We do not know about James. If this should turn out to be James Alton he would have moved to Texas and raised his family. This record I have in my files.

Timothy Newton will marry Nancy Emmaline Ramsey. Nancy's parent's were full bloodied Irish and it is believed Nancy was born in South Carolina.

Adella married M.D. Miller March 3, 1897 in Scott County, Mississippi.

Martha Ann-- This is not known

Mary Ann will marry Napoleon Bonaparte Babb

Elizabeth will marry J.W. Goss January 7, 1875

Margaret--This is not known

Nancy Kissiah--This is not known



From Aunt Ora Croswell we learn the following:  
 Becky married Roof Milner--They had no children  
 Emma married George Thrash

There is not a lot more information available on Elijah and Kissiah. We know that Elijah frequently sold his farm's and moved around the Lena and Freeney areas in Leake County. From Aunt Ora's notes we know that Elijah and Kissiah lived for several years in Scott County, Mississippi and at least two of his daughters were married there. The area around Freeney and Lena are so near Scott County that Elijah would not have to travel far to be in the adjoining county.

Elijah enlisted on the 18th of August 1864 in Company I of the third Regimental Cavalry of the Mississippi State Troops. He enlisted for a thirty day period at Hillsboro, Mississippi which is in Scott County. Elijah must have not thought to much of the Civil War waiting until 1864 to enlist. At the age of forty-seven was more interested in farming and family than going off to fight the Yankee's.

Elijah and Kissiah will spend their lives farming. Their last years were spent living with their daughter Rebecca and Rufus Milner as indicated by the 1900 Leake County, Mississippi Census. It reads:

Rufus Milner age 37 born August 1861 in Mississippi  
 Beckie age 39 born December 1860 in Mississippi  
 Elijah Croswell (father-in-law) age 83 born January 1817  
 Kissiah Croswell age 76 born January 1824

According to the 1900 Census, Elijah and Kissiah had been married 50 years, had eleven children, with six of these still living. They listed Mississippi as the birthplace of their parents. We know this to be in error from earlier records and can only sumize that the census takers simply filled the blanks in for them since neither were literate. There has always been speculation in the family that Kissiah was of Indian heritage but there is nothing to give credence to that.

Both Elijah and Kissiah were buried in Parker Cemetery located in Leake County, Mississippi. Parker Cemetery is not easily located. It is about three or four miles South of Tuscola (Highway 487). Take the first blacktop road to the left after leaving Tuscola. The blacktop changes to dirt about a half mile before getting to the cemetery. The cemetery is on the left off the road about one forth of a mile. There is no sign to indicate the location and it is on private property. However, the cemetery is easily accessible from the road, surrounded by a chain-link fence labeled with its name, and well maintained. These direction and description sent to me by Arlene Graves.

The inscription written on Elijah's and Kissiah's headstones read:

Elijah Croswell  
 d. 25 June 1902 in his eighty-eight year

Kissie C. Wife of E. Croswell  
 born 25 January 1825  
 died 8 May 1908

When I went to Parker Cemetery I was in a hurry but I did take the time to see if Elijah's parent's were buried there. I found no headstone to indicate that they were. I found no other Croswell stones here. It did not occur to me that since at least five of the children had preceded them in death that one of the girls could be buried here. I am almost certain that some other family member must be here but as I said I did not locate one the only time that I was there.

I wish there could have be more information on Elijah and Kissiah but farming was a demanding job and life was hard during this period. If Elijah and Kissiah had been educated perhaps there would have been more.

Out of the many letter that I wrote and received I would like to put part of one herein because it gives the descendants of yet another family member. I received the letter from Mrs. Olivia Rives it 1980. Olivia is the wife of Frank Napoleon Rives. Frank is the grandson of Mary Croswell Babb, who is the daughter of Elijah Croswell. \*\*\*Part of the letter I will omit because it is redundant of information I have already written. I will indicate omissions with the use of asterisks. There are numerous errors in the Mrs. Rives letter. I will type them and indicate such errors as to maintain continuity of the letter, so that a clear understanding can



be had by the reader. (The letter is actually a compilation of information from three letters and has been edited by Kent Crosswell for clarity). The letter reads:

Lena, Mississippi October 7, 1980

Dear Tim,

I went to see Aunt Myrtle Babb, Uncle Walter Babbs' wife (son of Napoleon and Mary Babb) this afternoon. Since you failed to give your Mother's name she said she could do very little to help you with your family record.

Are you the son of Walter Newton Crosswell? Is Timothy Newton the son of Elijah? If so what is his wife's name? Aunt Myrtle thinks his wife was named Sarah. \*\*\* (If she is speaking of Elijah's Mother, she may be correct). Do you remember Frank's Grandma Babb? Do you remember her brother and sisters and their husband and wives?

Newt Crosswell was Walter Crosswell's father and Billy were Uncle Newt's sons. \*\*\* (Billy was the son of A.C. Crosswell, Walter's brother) The family came from Georgia and settled in Philadelphia. \*\*\* (They settled in Leake County, Mississippi) Uncle Newt's wife was Aunt Coon Ramsey (Nancy Emmaline Ramsey\*\*\*) the lady Uncle Hendrix Weems married when his first wife Aunt Bertha died. (Bertha Babb) Aunt Coon help Uncle Hendrix to bring his children up. She was a very good woman.

Aunt Myrtle thinks Uncle Walter Newton Crosswell was your father and Timothy Newton was Elijah's son. \*\*\* (three sentences omitted that were confusing) She seemed very anxious to see and talk with you,

Aunt Myrtle Babb, Uncle Walter Babbs' wife lives at 805 South Van Buren, Carthage. She said so the Crosswell's liked to use family names. So many of the family happened to be named for relatives. Aunt Myrtle is the only living relative that I know that could help you fill your record sheet but would have to know the wives names.

Mary (Mollie) Crosswell married Napoleon Bonaparte Babb. They had two sons, Walter and Elijah or Lige they called him. Walter Babb married Aunt Myrtle Halford. Uncle Lige married Aunt Trudie Anderson. She died and left several children. Aunt Trudie married again to a Williamson. Grandma and Grandpa had six girls:

- Bertha married Uncle Hendrix Weems
- Tempie who married a cousin of Hendrix, Ben Weems
- Etta married a Walter Barrett, lived in Louisiana.
- Lomie married Lou Taylor
- Emma married Will B. Rives, Frank's father
- Norma married Preston P. Davidson of Neshoba

Grandmother's brothers and sisters were: (This is Mary Crosswell Babb\*\*\*)

- Walter Crosswell, Rebecca Crosswell, Emma Crosswell (married George Thrash),
- Jane Crosswell, Ora Crosswell (married Billy Taylor), Daisy Crosswell married Jack Blair

\*\*\* see below, different names KLC \*\*\*\*

Again she said Newton Crosswell was Walter Crosswell's father and Walter and A.C. was Uncle Newton's sons.

Did you see Aunt Norma? Were you at the funeral? I met some relatives there. Listen if you will contact Mrs. Bertha Burnett the one who took care of Aunt Norma before she came to live with us (Frank and me). She, Bertha Burnett can tell you where Aunt Emma and Uncle George are buried, at a little church out of town in the cemetery there. All of the older Crosswell's were buried there. However, Grandmother and Aunt Norma's mother was buried at Pleasant Hill here in Leake County.

- Daisy Crosswell lives in Beaumont, Texas
- Myrtle lived in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and finally Beaumont
- Ora lives in Philadelphia

Aunt Myrtle said unless she had you mother's maiden name she couldn't help much. If you come to

see us she said you all would come to see me or call me to come over to her house. I live one and one half miles from Tuscola.

For my family of 3 sons and one daughter I would like to get a record when you finish getting one. F.F. Rives is Dean at ECJC in Decatur. The other two sons are both in Jackson, W.B. and Ralph. There were 6 boys and 6 girls in the Rives family. Hope I have helped. With best wished (Wife of Frank) Olivia Rives

I am going to write down what I found among Aunt Norma's things. Aunt Norma was buried beside her parents at Pleasant Hill between my home and Aunt Myrtle's (Mrs. F. N. Wording).

Grand Pa Babbs' father was named for a famous lawyer. Grandma married Napoleon B. Babb. His mother was a Henry. Grandma's father was Elijah "Lige" Croswell and her mother Kissiah Canich "Kissy" Brown. The Croswells came from Georgia. Grandma's name was Mary Elizabeth Croswell, she married at the age of 16.

Grandma's sisters were:

Jane Croswell who married a Moore

Fannie Croswell who married \_\_\_\_\_

Martha was a twin to Grandma Babb

Rebecca Croswell who married Rufus Milner

Emma Croswell who married George Thrash, They had no children and adopted Carl Thrash.

Grandma's brothers were:

Timothy Newton Croswell

James A. Croswell

William Washington Croswell

#### Grandmother Mary Croswell Babb's Siblings (from a later letter)

Sisters:

Adella married M.D. Milner March 3, 1897 in Scott County

Jane Croswell married a Wesley Moore

Elizabeth (Lizzie) married J.W. Goss Jan. 7, 1875

Martha Croswell Grandmother Mary's twin sister in Scott County

Rebecca Croswell married Rufus W. Miller May 1, 1884 in Scott County

Emma Croswell married George E. Thrash December 31, 1879 in Scott County

Brothers:

William Washington, Timothy Newton, James A. Croswell

#### Grandpa's family (Napoleon Bonaparte Babb)

Napoleon Bonaparte Babb father was Si Babb

Brothers and sisters were:

Alford Babb married Sis Pigg (Sons were Clayton and Henry)

John Babb married Aunt Dinks

Monroe Babb went to Texas

Henry

Fred

Knucks married a Lewis

Jane married a McNair

Ann was an old maid

Pearl married a Wilson Arvetis

Florence married Gussie Bowlin

Carrie married George Allen

Cindy married Henry Strickland

Frances married Bob Brooks



### Children of Napoleon Bonaparte & Mary Croswell Babb

- A. Wiley who died at age 2 in 1873
- B. Emma Babb 13 years old was born on January 9, 1874, married William Braxton Rives on Thanksgiving day 1896. See Rives Family History below.
- C. Walter Lloyd Babb born in 1876 married Myrtle Halford. See page 69.
- D. Tempie Babb born November 30 1878, died March or April 14, 1918, married S. Ben Weems
  - 1. Vertis married Walter Smith, Route 1, Carthage
  - 2. Myra Weems married Jack Massey
  - 3. Maggie married Marion Johnson, their only child Margaret Ann
- E. Etta Babb born 1880. married Walter Barrett. They left Mississippi and moved to Shoudrant, Louisiana. This was his second marriage
- F. Lomie Babb born 1882. married Lou Taylor
- G. Lige Babb born 1885 married Trudie Anderson
- H. Bertha Omega Babb born April 9, 1887 died January 22, 1918. Married Hendrix Weems, cousin to Ben Weems. See page 70.
- I. Norma Babb born October 3, 1890 married Preston P. Davidson of Neshoba, MS. See page 70.

\*\*\*I have left out two pages of Olivia's letter here for the sake of clarity. She has listed my family tree and this would be a little confusing to the reader.

### The Rives Family History for Tim Croswell

William Braxton Rives born February 20, 1868 married Emma Magdalene Babb the oldest daughter of Mary Croswell Babb. They were married November 26, 1896. Their children are listed below.

I. The first issue of this marriage was Frank Napoleon Rives born 9-23-1897 died 1-6-1977. He married Olivia Thomas born 2-19-1902 at Lena, Miss. They were married on Thanksgiving day, November 30, 1924. Their children were:

- A. Frank Thomas Rives born 3-4-1924 married Hattie Jean Mason. Their child:
  - 1. Frank David Rives born 2-28-1950 married 6-20-1971 to Diane Marie Freeman born 8-5-1949. David is a dentist in Newton, Miss. The children of Frank David and Diane are:
    - a. Katie Elsie Rives born 6-19-1974
    - b. Emily Dione Rives born 1-23-1977
    - c. William Benjamin Rives born 2-14-1979
- B. William Buford Rives born 4-10-1926 married Lucille Bassett born 10-27-1924. They were married in 1946. Their children:
  - 1. Stephen Thomas Rives born 8-18-1950 married Sue Ellen Culkin born 10-16-1951.
  - 2. Cynthia Lynn Rives born 12-14-1952 married Ralph Markette "Mark" Coon. The children of Cindy and Mark Coon:
    - a. Ann Adair Coon born 1-11-1977
    - b. John Mark Coon born in 1979
  - 3. Lisa Ann Rives born 4-11-1958
- C. Ralph Edward Rives born 6-10-1931 married Nancy Dell Herrington of Union. Children:
  - 1. Ralph Edward Rives Jr. born 9-18-1956 married LeAnn Harryman born 8-8-1956
  - 2. Jay Herrington Rives born 8-11-1959 married Sandy Wilbanks
  - 3. Sandra Paige Rives born 4-19-1956
- D. Lexie Carol Rives born 2-1-1938 married first to Genn Dewayne Rhinewalt born 6-11-1932. He died of cancer on 7-21-1968. Lexie married second Charles Allen. Charles had one daughter name Leanne.
 

Lexie's and Dewayne's children:

  - 1. Phillip Dewayne Rhinewalt born 10-5-1957 married Joanne Webb
  - 2. Glenda Carol Rhinewalt born 5-12-1959
  - 3. Sherry Jean Rhinewalt born 7-8-1964



II. Mary Rives. died in infancy.

III. Vilas Clement Rives born 9-5-1899 died 6-17-1975. Married Betty Yourtee 12-25-1929. He was Superintendent of Education of Tensas Parish, Louisiana. Lived at St. Joseph, Louisiana. Bettie was born 1-6-1902. Vilas drowned while at a fishing camp.

A. Bettie Jane Rives born 11-29-1931 married Victor Pitre Vegas born 10-12-, 1933. They live in Ferriday, Louisiana.

1. Victor Pitre Vegas Jr. born 8-5-1956
2. Clinton Lee Vegas born 4-12-1958
3. Bradford Wayne Vegas born 5-29-1959
4. Donna Catherine Vegas born 10-31-1965
5. Sharon Kay Begas born 3-24-1967

B. Katherine Ann Rives born 9-8-1933 Married Benjamin William Brown, 651 Powell Street, Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Died in 1979. Ann had his body cremated as he was in a hospital in Texas. They had a small funeral and she carried his ashes home with her.

1. George Brown III born 6-6-1959
2. Jeffery Brown born 4-21-1921
3. Andrew Brown born 9-12-1962
4. Elizabeth Ann Brown born 8-2-1965

C. Gail Rives born 7-4-1950 married Thad Waters. Have 1 child born in 1980. They live with Bettie

IV. Zelma Myrtice Rives born 8-24, 1901 married Arse Warwick. 3-11-1921 He was born 2-14-1879 and died 4-21-1950. She never married again. She lives at 203 Oakhurst Street, Clarksdale, Mississippi. She lives close to her baby brother who looks after her.

V. Ora Estelle Rives born 11-13-1902. Married first to Fred Whetstone 6-1-1921 (born 5-13-1897 died 5-7-1946. Her second marriage was to John Ed Jones. She died in 1979.

A. Mona Antoinette Whetstone born 9-24-1924 she married Harold Leroy Kiger 4-1947. He was born 3-3-1946 died 10-12 1961 They live at 2509 Janice Drive, Austin, Texas. Peggy she was called taught school and educated all of her four children.

1. Stephen Marcus Kiger born 8-3-1951
2. Marcia Len Kiger born 7-6-1954 married 7-22-1972 and divorced George Michael Roberts. She lives with her mother
3. Phillip Scott Kiger born 12-24-1955 He is in the service.

B. Emerson Whetstone born 8-24-1931 married a tap dancer teacher Gloria Westbrook on 7-14-1953 born 3-23-1938. They live at 1608 Northgate, Irvin, Texas 75062

1. Michael Ricci Whetstone born 8-24-1955 married Teri Jane Thompson
2. Stacy Branton Whetstone born 8-12-1961

VI. Mary Elizabeth Rives born 4-18-1904 married Homar Loren Teddlie born 2-16-1892 married 10-13-1924. They live at Port Neches, Texas.

A. James Eugene Teddlie born 1-2-1926

B. Mary Elizabeth (Pat) Teddlie b. 10-9-1927 married and divorced John Glenn Hill

1. John Glenn Jr. born 12-9-1950

Mary Elizabeth married second John Allen Bose

2. Joel Allen Bose born 10-3-1964.

C. Fay Jeanette Teddlie born 9-7-1932 married 2-22-1958 to Charles Lynn Schultz born 12-18-1932

1. David Brent Schultz born 5-17-1960
2. Loura Lynn Schultz, born 1-23-1964

VII. Naomi Rives Majure.

VIII. Braxton William Rives born 5-16-1907 married Bettie Ruth Whetstone 12-17-1930. born 5-2-1910 in Lena, Mississippi. They live in Lena still.

- A. Aaron Braxton Rives born 10-16-1934. Married Nadine Rosekya. born 4-24-1971 Omaha Nebraska.  
(Randolph married a girl from Germany)  
1. Patricia Rives born 9-1-1967
- B. Harry Wayne Rives born 4-29-1930 died 5-9-1961
- C. Luther Daniel Rives born 10-29-19424.
- D. Betty Dianne Rives born 9-21-1944 married James Otis Swearingner 5-10-1967 They live at Hickory, Mississippi.
- E. Judith Rives born 9-12-1949 married Stanley Jenkins, they live at Carthage, Ms.
- IX. Joyce Etta Rives born 12-22-? married C.B. Danpeer Jr. 4-18-1916. they live in Jackson  
A. Harold Bishop Dampeer born 4-11-1946 married Brenda Simmons 7-19-1966  
1. Tracy Denise Dampeer born 6-12-1967  
2. Christopher Bradley Dampeer born 2-21-1971  
B. Cynthia Dampeer born 2-13-1953 died 2-18-1953
- X. Theodore Bilbo Rives born 2-19-1911 married Mary Ellen Weems 2-4-1931. they live at Lena, Mississippi  
A. Mary Louise Rives born 6-15-1932 married Rev. Johnny Tucker 8-28-1959. Johnny born 9-15-1930. They live in New York  
1. Johnny Daniel Tucker born 11-29-1959  
2. Deanna Louise Tucker born 11-29-1959  
3. Stephen Larry Tucker born 11-20-1961  
4. Mary Shari Tucker born 12-1-1964  
B. Joseph Theodore Rives born 9-23-1936 married Vivian Joan Morrison on 3-25-1958 born 2-17-1939 They live in Jackson.  
1. Joseph Michael Rives born 2-20-1959  
2. Laurel Theresa Rives born 11-25-1961  
3. Scott Morrison Rives born 5-10-1963  
4. Kendall Raynel Rives born 5-14-1965  
5. Jill larue Rives born 1-15-1967
- XI. Wiley Royal Rives born? He was killed in truck wreck. Larry drove a truckload of pulpwood and left the road, hit a tree and was killed. He had no children.
- XII. Myrtle Lee Rives born 2-11-1915 married Eugene Houston 11-29-1932. He was born 1-29-1895. They live at Forest, Ms. He was older than Myrtle. No children.
- XIII. Quentin Lee Rives born 4-6-1919 married Sudie Brandon born 6-12-1959 born 4-8-1924. They live at Clarksdale, MS. They had no children.

\*\*\*Author's note

Olivia having completed the above family line, started with a listing of other family members. Some of the information was a bit hard to follow, and some was repetitious of information already given. I tried to do my best to put it here the way in which she intended. TC

**Walter Lloyd Babb and Myrtle Halford Babb**

Uncle Walter and Aunt Myrtle married 8th of July 1900. Their Whitnises were Frances Jones and Jane Babb. Walter and Aunt Myrtle were buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Walter is the son of Napoleon and Mary Croswell. The Croswell's came from Georgia. Issue of Uncle Walter and Aunt Myrtle Croswell Babb are below.

- I. Estelle Babb married J.D. Perkins. They lived and reared their children in Port Neches. You might write to her and get issue of children. Mrs. Estelle Perkins 729 Marion St, Port Neches. Her issue.



Estelle, N.B., Elbert, Haywood, Ladena, Bud Morrow, Neal Shirley, Fontaine, Maisielee

II. Etta Babb married Walter Barrett. This was her second marriage  
Their issue

1. Eula Carl 2923 Narwood, Independence, Missouri 64052
  2. Mary Lee
  3. Maurine
  4. Mrs. Lois Ambrose deceased but married Ralph Ambrose
- Their Issue:  
Madine, Opal, Jack, and Ralph Ambrose

III Lomie Babb born 1882 married Lou Taylor

Their Issue:  
Nadine, Golden, Clement, Robert Reese, Mildrew, Lou Junior

**Bertha Omega Babb**

Bertha Omega Babb married Hendrix Weems. She died January 22, 1918 with flu and Pneumonia. All the family were in bed. Uncle Hendrix sent word to Frank Rives, my husband to come see him. Frank went. He told Frank he didn't have any money to put her away. Would he buy her casket and take her to Pleasant Hill for burial. Frank said he would. It was a sad picture. He bought her casket from a merchant at Lena and drove a wagon down to their house and picked up her body with Grandma and Frank's Mother. Carried it to his room to see her body in the coffin. He with tears in his eyes said to Frank they had a milk cow he could get if he didn't live. Frank told him to forget about it. The next spring Uncle Hendrix came over in the field where Frank was planting corn and paid him. He had several children so he married Aunt Coon. She helped rear the children.

**Norma Babb Davidson**

Norma Babb married Preston P. Davidson. They had no children. She lived with Aunt Emma until she died. then when she got sick she called Frank to come for her. He wasn't able to go that night. I said Frank someone has got to go. I called Vertis Smith, she said if Walter would go she would go, she would go if Frank could drive me to twin city which he did. Vertis would not agree to take her. So as I felt so sorry for her I told her I would send an ambulance after her the next morning. Frank went along on crutches. We brought her to Leake Memorial Hospital. I fixed a room to bring her here. She stayed with us several years. Finally Frank could not take her meals across the yard as he was walking on crutches. We then applied for a room in a nursing home. She stayed there 3 years. I looked after her expenses until she died. Which was six months after Frank passed. she was such a sweet person and is buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. She never did get a cent from Preston. He is buried at Golden Grove Cemetery. Aunt Norma seemed to be perfectly happy here with us. Frank was good to her. She never tried to sit up after Frank died. She said we were her family. I loved her and tried to treat her like a Mother. We never had any regrets. She said the Croswell's came from Georgia.

The answer to your questions after talking with Aunt Myrtle this afternoon.

1. Who was Elijah's father and mother? Aunt Myrtle seemed to think a Thomas Croswell. Elijah married Kizzy Brown. They came from Georgia Aunt Myrtle said for you to go to the cemetery where Aunt Emma and Uncle George Thrash were buried out from Philadelphia, MS. They were Grandmother Croswell's parents.

2. Who was Napoleon's father and mother? His father was Si Babb. His mother was a Henry. Grandmother Mary Croswell married Grandpa at the age of sixteen.



3. Yes, at Pleasant Hill toward twin city there is a cemetery where Aunt Norma, Grandmother and father, Aunt Jane married Wes Moore, Tempie, Bertha. Frank's mother and father were buried at Lena Cemetery. Frank at Tuscola cemetery on January 7, 1977.

Aunt Myrtle thought Grandpa Walter Newton Croswell son was Newton Croswell. (This is an error. Elijah son was Timothy Newton; Timothy Newton had a son named Walter Newton, who was my father). Newton Croswell married Coon Ramsey. They had three sons and four daughters. Walter Newton Croswell married Mimmie Brooks first. She and their first baby died at birth. Later he married Nelia Halford, She left him and then he married a flatwood girl named Marie. He had twins. Walter was a carpenter.

Olivia, wrote this author three wonderful letters packed full of family history. I shall always be indebted to her for taking the time to do this. I believe many people will have an insight into their family history after reading what she has written. Olivia closed her third and last letter with this short paragraph.

Dear Tim;

I hope you can understand what I have written. I'll let you put it on your forms. I would like to buy one of the Croswell Trees when you have finished;

Sincerely yours,  
Olivia Rives

P.S. If you want to leave any of it out, please do so. Let me know about Tom!

Note\*\*\* Well folks this concludes the history of Elijah Croswell. For there to be so little recorded information I think we have put together an adequate story of a farmer who spent his whole life working hard trying to make the earth yield a existence for his family. We are certainly indebted to all the people, who helped to make this story what it is. When I started this work I made a promise to my self that I would write the facts as I came across them. No one's family is perfect! Perhaps, one might say this or that could have been left out for a better documentation. My feelings are that we need to know as much about our family as possible and if we leave things out, then the on coming generations will have a false sense of what things are about. Perhaps, if we print the truth as nearly as we can those generations which are to follow will not make the same mistakes and truly make life better. However, one chooses to judge the success of a family I think we would all agree that Elijah and his family was as successful as anyone of the times. Maybe not in material wealth but in idea that we must all work had and keep our eyes toward God, and that our heavenly home will be far greater than any wealth we can store up of this world. TC

## CHAPTER TEN

**Timothy Newton Croswell and Nancy Emmaline Ramsey Croswell**

Family history has been an interesting pursuit of mine since about the age of twelve when there was nothing to do on winter week-ends except listen to the radio or get out Mother's pictures and talk to her about who was in each one of the photograph's. Mom did not know a great deal about the Croswell family but she shared the information she could remember and always encouraged me to keep looking and never give up the search. She also explained that early on in the lives of the male members of the Croswell family that some sort of riff occurred that virtually killed any communication between them for most of their adult lives. After each of them had practically reared their children they began to make the peace. Uncle Jack (William) and Uncle A.C. (Coleman) began to visit a little. Tom and I were always invited to come for long visits when and if we could. I will write a little about each of them later. However, even after Mother divorced daddy, Mother stayed in contact with Pearl Croswell Sharp and Ora Croswell Taylor. Aunt Ora and Mother were very close and dear friends all their adult lives. You would think that because of this that an abundance of information would exist because of the many hours they talked with each other. They were both widowed early on in life, both being in their early fifties and I sincerely think each was sensitive to the others feelings to the point of being careful not to bring up family members unless it was in some passing remark so as no to offend the other. For the most part of their hours of conversation was spent talking about their children and recent town gossip which both of them enjoyed passing on to each other. For the most part Tom and I were not permitted to stay long in their presence when they were visiting with each other. They both considered this their private time. I can sure understand that because Tom and I were never known to stay quite for very long. So when Aunt Ora came for her visit we were retired to some area of the house where we wouldn't be a problem. I will write more about these ladies in their own section as I come to them.

Using a little trickery I was able to get Aunt Ora to write two accounts of her father and mother. My grandfather was Timothy Newton Croswell and my grandmother was Nancy Emmaline Ramsey Croswell, Aunt Ora's mother and father. In her later years I asked Aunt Ora if she would write an account of her father and mother as a Christmas present for me. She gladly accepted and placed it inside the Christmas present for me. A few years later under the guise of having lost the first account and using many apologies I got her to once again to write. I was told rather sternly that I had better not be so careless again. It is the second account of Timothy Newton that gives us an insight to my grandfather. It is here that I will relate both accounts of Timothy Newton Croswell as written by his daughter Ora Emmaline Croswell Taylor. I think she would enjoy knowing that this will be read by her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Account I**

The Great-Grandparents of the Croswells

Mr. and Mrs. Lige (Elijah) Croswell

Scott County, Mississippi in the late 1840's and 1850's

Sisters of Elijah (Lige) Croswell

Mollie married Napoleon Babb

Della never married (\*\*\*)This is an error)

Becky married Roof Miller----no children

Emma married George Thrash----no children. Mr. and Mrs. Thrash moved to Philadelphia, Mississippi to make their home many years ago. They were buried here in Philadelphia.

Mr. Timothy Newton Croswell was born August 7, 1848 and died in 1918

Grandmother's parent's and brothers and sisters

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ramsey also lived in Scott, County

Family

Jess Ramsey, Riore Ramsey, Nancy (Coon) Ramsey (born Aug 15, 1858), Dan Ramsey, Maggie



Ramsey

All have died many years ago.

In 1881 all the Ramsey's moved to Louisiana in the are of Monroe and Ruston. All but Nancy Ramsey. She and Mr. Timothy Newton Croswell married in 1881 and moved to Leake County in the pleasant Hill community. He bought a nice home and farm where they raised their family. They moved away in the early 1900's. They moved to Freeny, Mississippi about five miles from Carthage. They lived there until about 1915. They moved to Philadelphia, Mississippi and Newton died in 1918. He was buried in the Goodhope Cemetery near Philadelphia.

In 1921 Mrs. Croswell married Mr. Hendrix weems who lived in Delhi, Louisiana. they made their home there until he died in 1946. Mrs. Weems son W. J. Croswell carried her home with him in Beaumont, Texas. She died in 1949 in a nursing home. She was nearly 90 years old. She was buried in the Magnolia Cemetery in Beaumont, Texas.

Marriage Records of Leake County, Mississippi  
Book F Page 295

T.N. Croswell, Groom Miss N.E. Ramsey Bride

200 dollars secured by T.N. Croswell and Napoleon Babb  
Seal T.N. Croswell Seal Napoleon Babb  
Clerk R.L. Wallace---License issue December 5, 1881

Married by J.E. Gilbert (J.P.) December 7, 1881  
Recorded May 20, 1882

Book E Page 182  
Napoleon Babb and Mary Croswell were married January 26, 1871 by W.C. Burks

Account II

Grandfather and father Timothy Newton Croswell

He married early in life around seventeen years old. he married a girl by the name of Eula. They had three children born and all three died. Borne dead! Then Eula died! That disturbed him very much. He left and went to rambling. He wound up in North Dakota as a cowboy. He drove masterly horses and some cows. He stayed out there until he became thirty-three years old. He returned to Mississippi to Scott County, Mississippi and paid his father's home off for him. Then he met Nancy Emmaline Ramsey. They married and seven children were born to this union. Their names were: Walter, Daisy, Myrtle, Ora, Will, coleman and Pearl. They owned their own home but sold out and went to Texas and stayed there some time, then to Jackson, Mississippi. They all found work to do. My father worked in a planner mill, Walter and Will worked at a hotel, Myrtle and Ora worked in a tailoring shope making men's suites. Coleman went to school. Pearl to small for school. Daisy married at that time and ten moved. But before we moved to Texas, Walter married a girl by the name of Mimie Brooks. She only lived three or four months before she died. He married early in life maybe 17 years old. Now T.N. Croswell's father was name Lige (Elijah) Croswell and mother's name was Lizzie Croswell.

Now on Mother's side her father's name was Tom Ramsey and Grandmother's name I just don't remember but they had four children. They were Bill, Myrak, Nancy and Dan. Tom Ramsey and Bill served in the Civil War. Bill were in battle but Grandfather Tom hauled food for the soldiers with oxen to the wagon. When in battle he would lay down in the wagon body which had two inch sides for the wagon body that helped save his life. They were gone five years in war. Grandfather were a full bloodied Irishman. A very small man.

This concludes the notes that I received from Aunt Ora. I am sad to say that this is all we know about our Ramsey kin.

I remember Aunt Ora telling a story about Timothy Newton that I though was interesting. While



Timothy was in North Dakota being a cowboy he slept many nights on the range with the horses he was taking care of. One night he took off his new gun and holster that he had bought and placed them beside his saddle that he was using as a pillow. During the night wolves came and drug off the new gun and holster. Apparently the holster was made of new rawhide and the wolves thought they had found a meal to eat. Timothy did not wake up and for many years he carried a holster with a full set of wolf teeth prints in it.

The 1900 Leake County, Mississippi of Beat 5 show's the following:

Croswell, Newton, Head, W M Aug 1848 51 m 17 years  
 N.E. , Wife, W F Aug 1857 41 m 17 years  
 Walter, son, W M Oct 1882 17 s  
 Daisy, daughter, W F Aug 1885 14 s  
 Myrtle, daughter, W F Feb 1889 12 s  
 Ora, daughter, W F June 1889 10 s  
 William, son, W M Oct 1891 8 s  
 Coleman, son, W M Oct 1898 2 s  
 Pearl, daughter, W F July 11/12 s

I will start here and write what I know about each of my Aunt's and Uncle's. In some instances it would seem like this would be very little. This was due to the feud going on in the Croswell family and the fact that they were scattered out across the country. You must remember that when I was a child transportation was not very good, nor were the roads. Visiting was mostly confined to the county and we didn't do much of that until I was in my teens. Life was hard during this time and people just didn't travel all that much.

**Daisy Croswell** first married Jack Plair then Will Perkins. I did not know either of the men. Aunt Daisy would write to my Mother occasionally but none of the letters survived. Daisy had red hair and was a very pleasant person to be around. I think she moved to Beaumont, Texas and made her home there. I do not know if Daisy had Children or not.

**Eula Myrtle Croswell** married a Hardy. I do not know where or when this marriage took place or if they had any children or not. I remember my brother Ted saying that she lived for a while in Baton Rouge not too far from him. To my knowledge I do not remember any contact with Aunt Myrtle or if daddy ever heard from her. I have a short letter from Myrtle Oder to Mother but I am not sure if this is her. I believe Myrtle Oder probably is the first wife of William (Jack) Croswell. I will copy it at the end of this section.

**Ora Emmaline Croswell** married Thomas William Taylor. I do not remember this man at all. Until I started this research I actually didn't know anything about him. In digging into the records I found where he and Aunt Ora was divorced. I believe he a sort of drifter and wanted to move around a lot more than Aunt Ora wanted to do. After the divorce she had to rear and educate her girls just as Mother had to see about her boys. No mention of this man was ever made in my presence.

Aunt Ora had sunset red hair and a wonderful personality. She made us all seem to be the most important people in the world. Since Mother had no sisters, Aunt Ora became her sister through the years. I think you could truly say that they were best friends throughout their lives. They spent many hours visiting on the phone and each other when they could get a ride to the other's home. Neither Mother nor Aunt Ora knew how to drive so this put each of them at a handicap. They were always helping each other in some way or other. They both sewed, so they exchanged ideas about how to make dresses. Aunt Ora taught Mother how to make belt's for ladies dresses. It seemed women could get the dresses they wanted and they were rarely sold with belts. Anyway, Mother used this as a source of income when daddy left. I daresay she made thousands. Aunt Ora was always bringing Mother dresses or shoes that she had grown tired of for Mother to wear. Since Mother had five boys to worry about I doubt she would have had good clothes if it had not been for Aunt Ora. Mother didn't worry one minute that she wore Aunt Ora's clothes because they were rarely ever damaged. I'm not real sure how much education Aunt Ora had but she truly was an intelligent lady. She was a good Christian and her and Mother spent a great deal of time studying the Bible. Whatever the Croswell boy's lacked in goodness Aunt Ora more than made up for it. Aunt Ora worked for many years



in Stubbs Department Store that her daughter owned. I know she worked hard raising her daughters and I'm not sure if she ever complained much or not. I never in my life heard her complain about anything. Both Aunt Ora and Mother were good cooks. It was a real treat to sit a table where each of them had prepared part of the meal.

After Leota died at a rather young age, Aunt Ora did not want to leave Philadelphia to live with her other two daughters. I think this was mainly due to her close relationship with Mother. Mother and Aunt Ora decided that she would live with Mother in an apartment Mother had made out of the garage which was connected to the house by a breezeway or porch. The breezeway was glassed in and converted to a kitchen and dinning area and the garage turned into a nice bedroom with its' own bathroom. That part was done without too much hassle but the rub came when Aunt Ora wanted to pay Mother rent. Mother would have none of that and Aunt Ora would have it no other way. Finally Minta was called in to arbitrate the situation and Mother finally gave in due Minta's and Dr. Dabbs insistence. I think these years were some of the happiest for the both of them. They didn't have far to go when they wanted to visit.

I shall never forget the phone call I got in December of 1975. My principal at school came and told me to go home immediately. Aunt Ora had checked on Mother when Mother hadn't shown up for their morning coffee and found that Mother had died during her sleep. Aunt Ora was devastated by Mother's death. I don't think she ever really got over it. They were just that close as friends or sisters. Neither Mother nor Aunt Ora ever discussed remarrying. I think they both could because both of them were attractive in their latter years. Instead both of them concentrated on rearing their children and later talking about their grandchildren. After Mother's death Aunt Ora will go to live with her daughter Minta who lived in Aberdeen, Mississippi. Aunt Ora will reach the age of ninety-one and will die the 10th of August 1980, seven years after Mother died. Regardless of whatever else ever gets written about Aunt Ora or Mother both of them were of the highest quality of women and led outstanding Christian lives. I loved them both dearly.

**William Jack Croswell** married first Winnie someone then second Alma Reynolds. I do not remember anything about my two Aunts or whether they ever visited or not. I do remember a little about Uncle Jack. The family feud started between Jack and daddy and to my knowledge I was never told what this was about. Uncle Jack spent his adult life in Beaumont, Texas. I do remember we were invited to come visit and stay as long as we wished. Due to the times it was never possible to do this. Uncle Jack was a large man and as I remember was always coming up with something he thought was funny. He made his living in Texas as a Termite exterminator. From all accounts he was very successful at this and led a rather prosperous life in Texas. Daddy and Uncle Jack finally got to the point of speaking and writhing again before they passed away. I doubt either of them remember what they were mad about all those years but I imagine it had to do with both of their hot tempers. As far as I know Uncle Jack only had one son that was named Ray. Ray died of a brain tumor and I do not know if he left any children or not.

**Coleman Croswell** was also known as A.C. Croswell. Coleman Croswell married Cherrie Bridges in 1920 in Neshoba County, Mississippi. The first recollection I have of Uncle Coleman, he and Aunt Cherrie lived in Livingston, Alabama. Uncle Coleman did not have a sign of any hair on his head. He was a large man that was awful strong even up to his death. He liked practical jokes and was always laughing and kidding around the kids. Both Uncle Jack and Uncle Coleman used profanity in their normal conversation. I always wondered how a person could pick that up to the point of not even realizing that you were doing it. Uncle Coleman had a large roomy house in Livingston that was shaded by large trees in the yard. Uncle Coleman and Aunt Cherrie had one son named Billy that was married and gone away from home when Tom and I started to visit them. Aunt Cherrie was about the same size of Mother and was a lot like her in many of her ways. She was a good Christian woman that always welcomed us when we came for our visits. I remember she always wanted to cook us things that we enjoyed eating. She was a very kind and gentle woman that anyone could love easily as we did.

Billy Croswell established a hardwood lumber business in Meridian, Ms. that became very successful. Eventually Billy will sell his business and re-establish it in Jackson, Mississippi. Again the business became very successful and Billy's two boys went to school in Jackson becoming outstanding baseball players. I believe at least one of them received a baseball scholarship to Mississippi State University.

Uncle Coleman and Aunt Cherrie eventually will move to Jackson to be near Billy and the grandchildren. Uncle Coleman was an auto mechanic and was good enough at that trade that he never really



had to hunt a job. People was always wanting him to come to their business to work. Uncle Coleman like Uncle Jack and daddy loved to drink whiskey and I believe drank some almost everyday. I do not know if it is true or not but I have been told that Uncle Coleman was a very mean person and he treated Aunt Cherrie in a horrible fashion. I was even told that many times he would not even keep food in the house for her. I did not learn of this until everyone had died. If he treated Aunt Cherrie the way that I have been told then he was a poor excuse for a human. Aunt Cherrie was a quality lady and all the things I remember about her are very good. Aunt Cherrie being the kind of Christian that she was took her marriage seriously and I know must have endured a lot to keep her marriage together. Both Aunt Cherrie and Uncle Coleman are buried in a cemetery in West Jackson. I hope what I learned about Uncle Coleman is not true but I have a good idea that it is and that is why I have related this in this narrative.

Billy Crosswell will die before Uncle Coleman and Aunt Cherrie. He was at home working on a lawn mower in the garage when Lois his wife decided to run a few errands downtown. Leaving the garage thinking the car was in reverse when instead it had been placed in drive the car lunged forward pinning Billy against a wall. After rushing him to the hospital, the doctor's had to remove one of his legs because it was so badly damaged. Billy was never able to accept the loss of his leg. He began drinking heavily and one night ran his car through an interstate barricade. His car was going at such high speed that he was killed instantly. No one was able to determine if this was accidental due to his drinking or if it was intentional due to his despondence. It is very sad his life ended this way. Lois and the boys continued to live in Jackson. The boys from all accounts have done well with their lives and are good Christians that do not drink.

**Pearl Crosswell** will marry Henry Cicero Sharp. Aunt Pearl and Cicero will spend their lives farming South of Philadelphia rearing one daughter and six sons. Life was hard for Aunt Pearl in her early life. The many long hours that farming required and the fact that there was never a big return meant a hard meager life for Aunt Pearl. In those early years we did not get to visit very much with Aunt Pearl and her family. She was a wonderful happy lady and never complained about her lot in life. When her children were grown and had left home Cicero died and left Aunt Pearl alone on the farm. Somehow she met my wife's grandfather John D. Hardy who was widowed for the second time. On July 15, 1966 she married John D. Hardy. Suddenly my Aunt was both my Aunt and my Grandmother. Of course I kept calling her Aunt Pearl and it was during the on coming years that I really learned what a wonderful lady Aunt Pearl was. She and Dave loved gospel singing and was always going somewhere to sing. I also learned Aunt Pearl had a gift for the Piano. She could sit a piano and play any song perfectly by ear. She and Dave were both very happy and Dave provided many things for her that she had never had in her early life. I visited with her and Dave often and she was always a joy to be around. She shared with me as much as she knew about the Crosswell family but really didn't know anything that I hadn't already learned. Aunt Pearl, just like Aunt Ora was a good Christian woman and raised her children that way. I was glade and so was everyone else that she married John Davis. They were well suited for each other and spent many happy days together going to singings and occasionally going fishing which both of them enjoyed.

The children of Pearl Omega Crosswell Sharp are:

- Helen sharp Childress of Canton
- Bill Sharp of Philadelphia
- Howard Sharp of West Memphis, Arkansas
- Clinton Sharp of Jackson
- Tim Sharp of Philadelphia

I believe at the time of her death on September 16, 1990 she had nineteen grandchildren and twenty-three great-grandchildren. Aunt Pearl was a wonderful lady who was always full of fun and we truly miss her. She is buried in Golden Grove Cemetery in Neshoba County.



## CHAPTER ELEVEN

## WALTER NEWTON CROSWELL

## The Life of my Father Walter Newton Croswell

Walter Croswell was married to **Helen Marie Thornton**. They were married August 28, 1920. For their first few years of marriage they travelled about the country going to Texas, Florida and Oklahoma. During these years Daddy and Mother were very happy and had a good marriage. Outside of that I don't really know to much about the first twenty years of their marriage. Daddy was a carpenter and a good one at that. He could think of something in his head and build it. There was nothing that I know of that he couldn't build.

He was a small man, that always dressed neat and looked good in whatever he was wearing. He never wanted anyone to know how old he was because he was eighteen years older than mother. Daddy never liked gray hair and would always keep any gray dyed. He did this even on into his eighties, never wanting to look his age. Work as a carpenter became to hard and demanding for daddy and when they came back to Mississippi he began painting and hanging wall paper. He became a master at this and soon everyone was wanting him to paint their house or hang wall paper for them. When daddy wasn't working he liked to squirrel hunt with a twenty-two rifle or go fishing. He was an expert with a rod and reel. If a bass was in the pond he was fishing in, he could catch it. He caught many bass that went over eight or nine pounds on the scales. There will be five sons born to daddy, the first was born in Oklahoma which I think is what finally caused him to bring mother back to Mississippi. My three older brothers have never talked much about daddy, when they did the stories they told were not good. After daddy moved back to Mississippi their home burned one night while they were at the Neshoba County fair. I did not know this until a few years ago I found the write up in the Neshoba County Democrat. In my early life I can remember living in three houses on Holland Avenue in Philadelphia. The home that I remember the most was located about a hundred yards outside the city limits across the street from what is now Philadelphia Gun and Pawn. Mother finally told daddy that he was going to build her a house that he was not going to get rid of. This became the home that we lived in for many years. The road was even gravel in those days. It is hard to believe that highway 19 was a gravel road when I was a kid. I loved daddy very much and I find it hard to finish the story and write the truth. I will do so to help my children and grandchildren to realize what can happen in life and perhaps they will chose to follow God and live their marriages as the Bible teaches. Daddy always had a good car and once in a while he would carry us somewhere. I remember that if Tom and I misbehaved he would go off in an uncontrollable cussing rage and mother would do the suffering for our misbehavior. Needless to say we didn't often go anyplace. Rarely was daddy home on a Christmas day. He would find some excuse to go some place. I remember one Christmas it was very cold and daddy was stuck at home. Mother had saved what little she could and had bought daddy a pair of house shoes. When he opened the package he thought they looked like shoes for an old man and started violently cussing and finally went somewhere in the house and stayed by himself for the rest of the day. It seemed like the Sheriff was always having to come to our house and tell daddy he couldn't beat mother up. I remember a Sunday in which she got us ready for church and then dressed herself and daddy came in and asked her what she was doing. She said "I'm getting ready to take the babies to church". Daddy went into an absolute rage, beat her, and undressed her so she couldn't go to church because he didn't like that particular preacher. The reason is I think because this preacher tried to get daddy to change. Mother risk many beatings getting us to Church every Sunday, but somehow we were always there. I remember Tom and I accepted the Lord when we were about ten. When we came home that Sunday Mother was in the kitchen boohooing and when we asked her why she just said she crying because she was happy. Mother never went to Church with us again! I guess the beatings just got to much for her. She always made sure we were there and continued to study her Bible and listen to preaching on the radio.

My early years in elementary school were not good. I literally went to school with the shakes and could hardly keep my hands still enough to learn to write. My grades were poor and mother kept telling daddy that I needed glasses and he'd just say the boy is lazy and not trying. Bad grades didn't bother daddy in the least. He just didn't care one way or another. I also remember some of our early teachers didn't show Tom and I much attention. Both of us thought they were doing this because we were poor. Not so! After I was grown



I found out that when daddy got lazy, he boot legged whiskey. Everyone knew this except Tom and I, and it might be good we didn't know. Since daddy was a master carpenter he could build places to hide his whiskey that couldn't be found. Mother said daddy got so bad drinking one time, he sold most of her furniture to pay for whiskey and women. Daddy loved to drink and he liked to chase women. Mother thought she had to put up with it because she didn't have any type of skill to earn a living for us. The sad part is that daddy spent a fortune on both whiskey and women. We could have been well off if not rich from the money daddy earned. He even found work during the depression when everyone else was standing in food lines. The money daddy gave to mother was just enough to keep us alive and that was about it. Finally the beatings and abuse just got to be too much and at our insistence daddy was asked to leave. On the 27th day of May 1952 daddy and mother were divorced after thirty-two years of marriage. The first spring that he left we were reduced to eating out of the garden. We ate so many english peas and corn bread that till this very day I hardly ever eat english peas. For the rest of daddy's life he wondered why Tom and I visited just once in a while. Daddy never told us he ever loved us, he never hugged us as children and never spent anytime teaching us things that would help us. That was all left up to mama and she was a gem. The first thing mother did after the divorce was to take me to an eye doctor. Everyone was amazed that I had been able to learn as much as I had being nearly blind. When I got my first of glasses I saw things that I had never seen before. One thing that stands out in my mind was being able to see the writing on a the chalkboard. As you can imagine my grades started to improve immediately. Children cannot be raised in a hostile environment and then be expected to excel. I don't know what would have happened to Tom and I if daddy hadn't left. As it was it took the both of us many years to overcome the cussing and beatings that mother had to endure. Daddy will marry a very nice lady by the name of Donna Gore from House when he divorces mother. In a sort time he will divorce her. I imagine this came about because she would not take the abuse he dealt out to mother. Some years later daddy will mellow out and quit most of his cussing and drinking. He will then marry Bertha Etheridge of Dekalb, Mississippi. She is an extremely good woman and they have many happy years together. Daddy never understood why we could not accept her and treat her as a mother. Maybe we should have I don't know! But as far as Tom and I were concerned our mother was the one that gave us love, the one that clothed us and the one that walked two miles in all kinds of weather to work. I didn't cry or shed a tear when daddy passed away, I did that for the last time when he packed up and left us to get by anyway we could.

#### The children of Walter and Marie Crosswell

**Walter Patrick Crosswell** born September 25, 1924 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The only letter that survived that daddy wrote was one to my grandmother Colie Thornton Cannon announcing Pat's birth. Here is the letter:

Tulsa, Okla  
407 East Sixth Street  
Thursday night September 25, 1924

Mrs Colie Cannon and family

Guess you will be surprised to see a letter from me. But just wait you haven't heard it all yet. Marie have got herself a 8 3/4 pound Baby Boy. ha, ha isn't that the limit. She is doing just simply fine. Baby too. it came this morning at 5:00 o'clock. an early bird isn't it. I had just left the hospital. she are laying up there laughing and talking. Only complains with just a few little pains and sore just a little.

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I would suspect the next few days she will be mighty sore. We had one of the best doctors in Tulsa and two trained nurses. This hospital only takes care of mothers and babies' She taken sick at about one o'clock this morning so we got in the car and drove over. The land lady here who thinks so muck of her went with us. Which made three nurses, so you see she didn't like for the need of attention. They all say that she came through mighty lite. She only suffered

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about three and one half hours. While that was a long time to have such great pain, but not like some cases. She haven't named it yet" The nurse brung it in and let it lay in the bed with her a little while today. She ses she thinks more of it than she did of Pal her bull dog pup. I ask her this how did she like the baby and



she said just fine ha, ha. We can't tell who it favors cause its so ugly, I guess. I have an idea in just a few days

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days she will be kindly foolish about it. I don't think she is going to have one bit of trouble. So you need not rest uneasy one bit about her because she have got the best of care. I can hardly stay here in the room all alone. She are uneasy about you as you were not well when you wrote last. So write her just as soon as you can. Will be lots of help to her to hear from you. We both hope you all are o.k. by this time. I am going to see her

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in the morning before I go to work.

Say did Pal get there o.k. Hope he did. Marie have looked for a letter or card all week.

You folks excuse bad writing and all mistakes. I am tired and sleepy. did not sleep any last night and have worked all day, so kinda feel half crazy.

Will say good night to all Hoping to hear from you all soon. Tell Edgar and Bertha Hello for us. Walter and Marie (Over)

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P.S. Friday morning. I am at the hospital now. Marie rested fine last night. Her and Baby both is all o.k. The nurse is in now says she haven't any fear. isn't that nice.

Not long after Pat's birth Daddy and mother came home to Mississippi. Daddy will live in several houses in Philadelphia. Pat has a nearly normal childhood, works and goes to school. I believe on a few occasions he worked with daddy painting some of the houses in the area. Pat graduated from Philadelphia High School making good grades most of the time. After high school he goes to Conn. to work in a defense plant helping to build submarines. For some reason he does not like this work and decides to enlist in the United States Army paratroops. He is awarded his parachute wings and comes home on leave looking really good. While in basic training he gets sick and become critically ill. When Mother finds this out she makes daddy take her to see him. She finds out that he has yellow jaundice and she knows how to treat this with home remedy and prayer. Before long she has him out of bed getting well. From what mother said I think he may have died if she hadn't went to see about him. He recovers and finishes his Army training jumping out of air planes. Somewhere along the way he decides his chances will be better on the ground than in the air if he has to go to World War II. He does and is made a heavy machine gunner and is sent to Europe to land in Marseille, France. They fight their way through France, the Alps and into Germany. Throughout this whole period Mother is heartsick but writes and sends packages from home regularly. Pat is in many major battles and is wounded two times the second was a critical injury. The first time he was hit in the chest with mortar shapenel which he still has in his chest today. He is gotten well and sent back to fight more. He sees many of his close friends killed in battle and I think this will have a life long affect on him. His second injury came when his jeep drive ran in a bomb crater at night while they were in an intense fight. The jeep turned over and caught fire with his leg trapped under the jeep. He received third degree burns from the knee down and was sent back to a hospital in Florida. The skin was taken from his backside and grafted to what was left of the leg. The recovery was long and painful but he will eventually walk and be able to use the leg again. For his service he was awarded the Bronze Star, two Purple hearts, the Combat infantryman's Badge, The Paratroopers wings and about a dozen other medals. After coming home and recovering from combat shock, Pat entered the University of Mississippi and completed the requirements for a B.S. in Business Administration. After getting out of college he goes to Jackson and began a career in the insurance business. After staying there a while he goes to North Carolina and enters the real estate business and became very wealthy. He retires at the age of 54 and comes back to Mississippi to live in Gulfport to a life of leisure and fishing. He continues to live there today.

Pat will marry Maxcine Baker of Brandon and they will have one daughter Karen Leigh Croswell, who recently graduated from Belhaven College in Jackson. She is currently in Jackson getting her degree in Nursing which she is just about to complete.

**James Everette Croswell** born December 2, 1929 Joe is a very troubled child. He is never accepted by daddy. Daddy abuses him frequently with cursing and beatings that probably weren't warranted. Joe grows up despondent and never does very well in school even though everyone gives him encouragement. He gets



hooked on medications and whiskey early in life and leaves home with the carnival and quits school in the ninth grade. For the next thirty years he is in and out of trouble and has to be gotten out of jail frequently by mother. Mother had to spend money on him that would have made her life easier if he had not gotten into so much trouble. Eventually, he will wind up in Jackson, Louisiana where he meets and marries a widower with seven children. Once in a while he would still get drunk or go to jail, but for the most part tries to be a good daddy to his seven step-children. He will marry Letha Crum who has these children. Finally after going through a heart attack and several operations on his hip and legs he retires and has to completely quit drinking. He still lives in Jackson, Louisiana helping to see about his grandchildren. He is in very poor health and it is amazing that he has done as well as he has. Joe had many fine qualities had he not been abused as a child that he could have developed to earn a good living. To say that he has done as well as he has is nothing short of a miracle. I know mother was relieved when she no longer had to worry about him.

**Ted Brice Croswell, Sr.** Ted grows up and does well in sports and high school. He was a really good football and baseball player. He was a running back in football and a catcher in baseball. After high school he goes to East Central Jr. College and plays football there and from there into the U.S. Army where he is selected for guided missile training after basic. He began to play football in the Army and reinjured a leg that was injured badly in high school. The second leg injury causes him to be discharged from the Army early. He comes home and meets a girl from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and began to date her. While dating her they sent the story of their courtship to a T.V. program called Bride and Groom. They are accepted to be married on t.v. and so Jean LaFaye Knight becomes his bride and they are sent on an all expense paid trip to Chicago, Illinois for their honeymoon. Ted then goes to Baton Rouge to make his home and becomes a really good Christian spending a lot of time working in the Church. He and Faye have two children, they are:

Lisa LaFaye Croswell

Ted Brice Croswell, Jr.

Both of the children grew up in Baton Rouge and did really well with their lives. Both of them are good Christian young people. Lisa is living in Houston, Texas and Brice is living with his family in Baton Rouge. Ted has a couple of serious industrial accidents working at one of the Plants in Baton Rouge. He is forced to retire in his early fifties and has led a very successful life in Baton Rouge. He has an expensive home and by most standards would be considered wealthy. He works in his yard and fishes when he can. He is a master fisherman and hunter. He can track game better than most folks and has caught more bass than I have the paper to write about. I think you could sum up his life by saying he has worked really hard and done well.



## CHAPTER TWELVE

## TIM AND TOM CROSWELL

*Born March 18, 1940*

I will write this part about Tom and I together since we are twins and best friends. I think for some reason twins are naturally close and for the most part remain that way throughout life. I have always been glad to have a twin even though on occasions it has had its' problems. Once mother divorced daddy our lives started changing and for the most part for the better. Our brothers helped to raise us and see that we were started in the right direction. I think all three of them adopted us in one way or another. All of them helped with money and clothes and whatever else they could give us that we needed. It has always been good to have older brothers even though they never seem to quite understand that you can grow up. They taught us everything that a father should have taught us. They certainly taught us what we needed to know about hunting and fishing. Both of us have become experts in those areas with Tom being a little better fisherman than I. So after getting into high school things really started changing. Those were a really fast four years. Tom became an outstanding high school basketball player winning every honor a high school player could be given. Some of the awards he received as many as three times. Finally, he was named a high school All American. I was kept busy keeping our school assignments straight and seeing that he turned his work in. Mother always knew when report cards were due and heaven help us if bad grades were on it. I think her punishment would have been called child abuse by today's standards. Anyway, we knew better than test her on that level because we got in enough trouble with our daily fights. While Tom was playing basketball I enlisted in the Army National Guard and got my first real lessons at growing up. We were expected to work summers and whenever else we could. All mother had to do was pick the phone up and call a friend and we would have some kind of a job. We were expected to bring whatever money we earned home for mother to use. We did that just realizing it was the right thing to do. If that was not enough work we were always expected to help with the garden. Gosh I hated that work! I hated it so much that I have never had a garden in my adult life. The hard work and the whipping never hurt more than our pride for long. Even though at the time we thought it was going to kill us. Finally! high school is over and mother decided we were going to college if it meant standing over us with a shot gun. Tom received a basketball scholarship to East Central and I received a work study grant. Man, was that first year a ringer. Trying to figure out how to make good grades, have time to play and all the other stuff was a drastic change. Finally, with the help of some close friends the study part was conquered and grades began to get better. I thought mother was going to die of a stroke that first year when our grades came out. We were at East Central from 1959 till 1961. Well that required another big adjustment for the both of us even though we continued to be roommates. Again our grades took a dip and maw Crosswell soon got that straight. I graduated in 1963 going over my time by one semester. I had to repeat some of those bad grades but in 1963 I graduated in the top one third. Mother yanked Tom out in 1963 to take his Army National Guard basic training because the war in Viet Nam had gotten real hot. Mother didn't know it but I tried to get out of the Guard and go to the regulars so I could go to Viet Nam. She was smarter than I thought and told everyone at the Guard if I tried to stop it and they did. She was determined that she was not going to have another son go off to war. I really think it would have killed her from worry. Well, I graduated from College and planned to leave the Guard as my eight year enlistment was up. Wrong again Tom talked me into staying in with him so he would have a running partner at summer camp. I stayed in and by the time that was over we both decided we might as well retire out of the deal. When it was over I had completed 27 years and Tom had completed 20. I think every male in America should serve time in the military because you learn things and experience things that helps you really to grow up the right kind of way. We both retired with the rank of Master Sergeant, I should have had a couple stripes on him but my mouth got me in trouble a couple times which slowed the promotion process. Both of went to graduate school and received Master's degree. I have two, one in history and the other in school administration and Tom received his in Special Education which he has taught most of his career. He has the patience of Job and I have no patience. He received his Master's a couple years before I did. We both knocked out good grades here and I know Mother would have been proud as punch to see this. She did see Tom get his and beamed all over. I would have to if I had fought the battle to get us educated that she did. Both of us became teacher under the threat of death from one of the brothers if



we didn't. He didn't think there was a better job than being a teacher. As time would prove him exactly right. I retired from active teaching in 1992 with 28 years in service and Tom will retire in 1995 with thirty years of service. Pay attention I told you he had more patience than I did. Tom is a far better Christian than I am. He never misses Church and I do. I'm okay though I know the Lord well. I left out the years after college because those years are too near the present to write about. There is enough information about the two of us that no one will have to look hard to find out that we have left the Croswell name in far better shape than it was given to us.

Tim Croswell will marry Mary Charlotte Hardy and they will have three children  
Patrick Timothy Croswell  
Kimberly Suzanne Croswell  
Andrea Michelle Croswell

Tom Croswell will marry Martha Faye Proctor and they will have two children  
Thomas Mark Croswell  
Latina Faye Croswell

If any more information is wanted I will leave it to our children to write a more complete story. To my children, to Tom's children, to my brothers children I would ask that you learn from this book and leave the name of Croswell or your husband's name better than you found it and you can only do this with God's help.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### ALLIED FAMILY: CANNON

#### Foreword

I have been thinking for a long time that I would sit down and try to write a history of the Cannon family. Today July 6, 1993 I will begin to write the things I know so that the Cannon's that I am related to will have a history of their family.

The first part of this text will be an exact copy of the work done by Doctor Harvey W. Cannon, Jr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There will be places in his text that I may have new information that I will show that I have added by the use of an asterisk. I may add additional comments to his text, if so I will show this by putting my comments in a paragraph of their own and designating that I have inserted this material.

We are to be indebted to Dr. Cannon for placing such a wealth of material in the Neshoba County library for other researchers to use. This was certainly an act of generosity because this researcher would have spent many, many more months of hard work on this project had it not been for this work.

The last part of this book will be my work and the things I have learned about the family through work of my own.

Had it not been for Edna Jennings of St. Joseph, Missouri I would not have gotten so deeply involved in this project. Edna's questions led to three years of intensive research on my part to make some really unusual discoveries.

I dedicate this work to the two people who should have the gratitude of everyone. They are Dr. Harvey W. Cannon and Mrs. Edna Jennings.

**Tim Croswell, M. Ed.**



## The Cannons Of Neshoba County, Mississippi

The family of Cannons that moved into Neshoba County, Mississippi some ten or twelve years after "The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek" are probably distinct from other Cannon families in the state. Those Cannons found in early census records of Yalobusha, Calhoun, and Oktibbeha counties, and a few others around the state had emigrated from North and South Carolina and Georgia. Most came into the state via the "Southern Route" across Georgia and Alabama. A few had taken the "Northern Route" from North Carolina through Tennessee and into Mississippi. Several Cannon families in Louisiana that came directly from Ireland or Northern Ireland (Ulster) were probably of Huguenot stock because of strong anti-Catholic sentiments, fierce independence and high skills in mechanics and textiles.

Probably some attention should be taken at this time for the reader to acquaint themselves with the general history of the Scotch-Irish (Ulster Scots) and the Huguenots, and their contributions to the United States of America. One interesting article and a condensation of information on these two groups are located in any public library.\* It might also be appropriate to note that these two Cannons of English birth were early arrivals in the Colonies. A John Cannon arrived in the Virginia Colony in 1622. This was the second boatload aboard the good ship Abigail. A Richard Cannon was aboard the first boatload of settlers to arrive and help establish the Georgia colony in 1733.

However, the Cannons of Neshoba County, Mississippi came from West Virginia, according to oral history. This researcher can accept the general area around the state to include Southwestern Pennsylvania and Eastern Kentucky. This theory has been reinforced somewhat over the years by the oath, "By God" being used regularly. Persons were called "By God West Virginians" even before the Civil War when West Virginia became its own state, by use of that term in their own speech emphasis. This term was in frequent use by older members of the Cannon family, and this writer himself, as can be recollected from thirty-five to forty-five years ago.

Research indicates that there were no Cannon families living in the Western counties of Virginia in 1790 through 1830 censuses. There were several families of Cannons living in Kentucky in 1790-1800; specifically living in Scott County, near Georgetown, Kentucky.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania counties also contained many Cannon families, as early as colonial times. These were Scotch-Irish immigrants who bore the surname Cannon, who had bought (but probably had never paid the William Penn family) land on the western frontier. In fact there is a city of Cannonburg, in Washington county, just south of Pittsburgh. There were many Cannons from Washington, and adjacent counties, that served in the Pennsylvania Line of the Continental Army.

While the Kentucky Cannons could have entered "Old Kaintuck" via the Daniel Boone-Cumberland Gap route it is more likely that these Cannons would have "rafted" down the Monogahela River to Pittsburgh. Another 300 miles by raft down the Ohio River would have brought these early settlers to Maysville, an early settlement on the river. Another 50 miles overland would have brought them to Georgetown, in the heart of the "Blue Grass" country.

According to old Cannon family stories (oral history), three brothers, supposedly from West Virginia, were supposed to have floated their goods down the Ohio and Mississippi River to New Orleans. This had to be between 1803 and 1818; more likely closer to the latter date. In New Orleans they sold their goods, sold the flatboat for lumber, and left to return home via the Natchez Trace. According to the story, one of the boys got sick near the headwaters of the Pearl River. It is said that they were taken in by a family. The boys met some girls, married and never returned to their homes to live. It is not known whether the sick brother survived.

Several important details appear in this otherwise believable story to modify it into a coherent message with the possibility of Cannon "Roots" extending into Western Pennsylvania yet to be explored.

First, Georgetown, Scott County, Kentucky is close enough to the Kentucky River to have access to the Ohio, and later the Mississippi River. They would have had a timber supply at the point of departure and a high probability of reaching New Orleans.

Secondly, there were two families of Cannon living in Georgetown, **Newton Cannon**, an early settler, and **John J. Cannon**, who himself was born in Scott county in 1792; each having a large number of sons. Either could have furnished three sons for the journey to New Orleans.

Thirdly, the names of Newton and John J. (or Jay) appear in successive generations of Cannons in Kemper and Neshoba Counties. Finally, the descendants of Newton and John J. Cannon that stayed in Scott County, Kentucky have distinguished themselves and bear a striking physical resemblance to their Neshoba County kinsmen. Many of them in Kentucky stand over six feet tall and have sandy or reddish hair. The youngest son of John J. Cannon was born in 1832, and was 6'6" tall and weighed over 235 pounds. He was a medical doctor of that area for many years.

One possible quirk in this otherwise believable story emanates from the fact that Neshoba County, as well as the Northern half of the state, was in the hands of the Choctaw Nation. These lands were not available for settlement by whites until 1832-1833. The Natchez Trace was a main artery of commerce through the Choctaw lands and became a post road by an Act of Congress in 1800. The Natchez Trace started in Nashville and ended in Natchez



on the Mississippi River.

It is possible that the Cannon boys were taken in and cared for by Choctaws. If this was so, it would mean that the girls these boys met and married were also Choctaws. One factor that makes this hypothesis believable is that the Cannons (as well as the Earnests, Sterling F. Cannon's in-laws) had very good relations with the Indians in the early days of Neshoba County. Another fact that adds a bit of probability to the story is that the wife (listed on her tombstone as "Consort") of William Cannon was named Selah. William Cannon is a patriarch who, with several of his family, is buried in the Cannon Family Cemetery, which is about three miles east of Scooba, Mississippi. This writer believes that this William Cannon may have been an Uncle of Sterling F. Cannon and possibly one of the Cannon boys who made the flatboat trip from Kentucky.

Another possibility could be that the river mentioned was the Tombigbee River, instead of the Pearl River. Sterling F. Cannon was born in Tuscaloosa County, in what is present-day Pickens County, Alabama. When Pickens County was formed in the late 1820's, there were several Cannon families located there and engaged in farming. It is also possible that if the wives were Choctaw, they would have had to leave the Indian lands when the illness matter of the Cannon brother was resolved one way or another. The closest available lands for white settlement would have been just east of the Tombigbee River in Alabama.

When Sterling F. Cannon had grown to manhood, several Cannon families had moved into Kemper County, Mississippi. This would have been in the 1830's. The 1840 Census of Kemper County shows that Sterling F. Cannon, age 20, and his 15 year old bride were living next door to Isham Earnest's family. These would have been his in-laws. There was a John Cannon, who had been born in Kentucky also living next door. John was about 8 years older than Sterling and lived on adjacent lands in Kemper, and later in Neshoba County. The only assumption which can be made is that John J. in the 1850 Neshoba County Census was a brother or the son of a brother of the original flatboat Cannons. If the latter is correct, someone went back to Kentucky for him.

Another interesting possibility is raised by the name of Sterling F. Cannon appearing on a 1828 Act of Congress listing those Revolutionary War Officers and soldiers who had not claimed their land bounty. This Sterling F. Cannon was from Southwestern Pennsylvania and had served as a private in Colonel Daniel Broadhead's 1st Regiment (Pennsylvania) in the Continental Army. Since it was a practice to hand down names of grandparents, this might give us a clue to the origins of the Cannons in Kentucky. Since the Western third of Pennsylvania drains into the Ohio River, this would mean that the Cannons in Kentucky "put in" on the Monongahela River, float past Pittsburgh, and made another 300 miles down the Ohio River to Mayfield, Mason County, Kentucky. They then made a relatively short fifty mile trip to the interior and "Blue Grass" country. Washington County, Pennsylvania had a large number of Cannon families in the 1790 and 1800 Censuses. There was a heavy concentration of Scotch-Irish (Ulster Scots) among the original settlers of the Southwestern counties. In fact, during George Washington's Presidency, Washington County was the site of the Whiskey Rebellion.

This writer is at a stand-still until he can identify the father of Sterling F. Cannon (b. 1820 in Alabama d. 20 Aug 1863 in Neshoba County, Ms.). Therefore the following assumptions shall be made. Understand that these assumptions are not accepted as fact. They are to be considered as logical assumptions until further research confirms or disputes these assumptions.

1. The Cannons of Neshoba County Mississippi probably have their roots in Kentucky around Georgetown.
2. These Cannons probably entered Kentucky from the Western counties of Pennsylvania, most likely Washington County.
3. That William Cannon and his "Consort" Selah are probably not Sterling F. Cannon's parents. They could possibly be Sterling's Uncle and Aunt.
4. Sterling F. Cannon was probably half Choctaw.
5. The John J. Cannon, who lived adjacent to Sterling and Arraminta Cannon in Kemper and Neshoba Counties, was probably a cousin. Another likely possibility would be that John could be an all-white half brother.

(\*\*\*\*Exceptions I, Tim Croswell, make with Dr. Cannon\*\*\*\*)

1. I agree with this statement
2. I agree with this statement
3. I strongly disagree. I believe William and Selah are the parents of Sterling F. Cannon. The term



"Consort" is a European word meaning wife. This term is often used by the Irish. I believe William migrated overland into Mississippi as most early settlers did. Had he followed a water route to New Orleans, he would have probably entered into Mississippi around Natchez. I do not see how Sterling F. Cannon could have been born in Alabama otherwise. William somehow lost his wife on this journey and later married a Choctaw woman. This would make Sterling F. Cannon half-Indian as the Choctaw Nation extended into Alabama and North Carolina. Most of Sterling F. Cannon's life was spent near the Choctaw nation. Barrett Cemetery where Sterling F. Cannon and Arraminta are buried is on land owned by the Choctaw tribe today. Sterling F. Cannon's father was William and William's father was John J. of Kentucky and Pennsylvania. The John J. living near the Cannon family was a brother to Sterling F. Cannon.

4. Sterling F. Cannon was half Choctaw. I agree 100 per cent. I have a picture of Sterling with his three daughters and it is very obvious.

5. I disagree with this as pointed out in number three. I strongly agree with the second statement made in number five.

### STERLING F. CANNON

Sterling F. Cannon was born in 1820 in Alabama. The birth was probably early in the year in Tuscaloosa County, in what now is Pickens County. Pickens County was formed from Tuscaloosa in November or December of 1820.

In the 1830's (1823-33), the family of Sterling F. Cannon moved into Kemper County, Mississippi. This land was made available for white settlement by the Choctaw Cession and The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. On the adjacent homestead in Kemper County was the family of Isham (pronounced ISH-um) and Elizabeth Earnest. Isham had been a "Hatter" or hat maker in Georgia. They had settled in Butler County, Alabama (South of Montgomery) near the close of the Creek Wars, about 1823. Isham had been a successful farmer and is known to have owned over 14 slaves there.

Sterling F. Cannon had married the Arraminta D. Earnest, the 15 year old daughter of the Earnest's and was farming a piece of land in Kemper County, according to the 1840 Census. Elizabeth Earnest probably had her husband Isham, declared insane around 1841 in Kemper County. This cannot be verified, since the Courthouse burned in the 1820's. Elizabeth moved their farming operation to Neshoba County. Elizabeth was listed as a taxpayer in 1842, so Isham had probably been ruled insane by then.

Sterling and Arraminta settled land next to Elizabeth, but is not listed as paying taxes until 1853. The Tax records of Neshoba County were lost for the years 1842-1852. The taxes for Sterling's land were probably not paid in 1842 but were probably paid in the later years which were lost.

Isham Earnest probably lived with Sterling and Arraminta until their first children were born. Insanity was an occupational hazard among the hat makers of the early 1800's due to the use of Mercury in the shaping process. As the crowns of hats were hand rubbed, the mercury was absorbed through the skin. Upon reaching the brain, the mercury killed brain cells on contact.

In the 1850 census, Sterling and Arraminta Cannon were listed as in Neshoba County, next to Elizabeth Earnest. On the other side was a John J. Cannon (b. in 1812 in Kentucky) and his family. Isham was living with William and Mary Welch in Neshoba County. Mary and Arraminta were sisters.

The 1850 Agricultural census of Neshoba county showed that they had a rather diverse farming operation on their 25 improved acres and 75 unimproved acres of land. The largest crop was 100 pigs, along with other crops (Sweet Potatoes, Milk Cows, Beans and Corn) needed to feed the Cannon family.

By 1860, Sterling and Arraminta had reduced the number of pigs raised to 20, but had added almost 50 sheep. they produced 50 pounds of Wool and seven bales of cotton (at 400 pounds each) that year, as well as added 4 oxen for plowing during the past decade.

Mother in -law, Elizabeth Earnest worked about 240 acres of land east of Good Hope. This specific location is not certain at this time but shall be specifically located, since the grave of Elizabeth (and possibly Isham, too) would be located in a private burial plot on the land. In 1850, Elizabeth had several of the younger children at home with 9 slaves. She had 70 sheep and produced 200 pounds of cheese and 300 pounds of honey. By 1860, she had gone in for more pigs, fewer sheep and more corn to feed the pigs.

In the spring of 1862, a recruiting drive was made in Neshoba county to enlist soldiers for the Confederate Army. Sterling at the age of 42 enlisted. The unit formed was Company E of the 35th Mississippi Infantry. It was called the Neshoba Dixies and was headquartered at Columbus, about 40 miles Northeast of Philadelphia.

In the summer muster of that unit Sterling was listed as Absent on Company Business. He was present for the fall muster, but was listed as Absent--sick in the winter roll call. He was probably sent home to recover, as was



the custom in those days. For the spring and summer musters of 1863, Sterling F. Cannon was listed as Absent without leave. It became obvious that he was not well enough to report back for military duty since the record of the fall muster (October 31, 1863) indicated "Died at home--20 August 1863." Thus ended the military career, as well as the life of Sterling F. Cannon at the age of 43.\*\*\*

He had two other Cannons (probably cousins, who had enlisted together with Sterling) that were listed as deserted near Scooba, Kemper County. Obviously, when those boys got close to home, the urge to abandon military life was just to great for them.

Sterling F. Cannon also had two sons to serve in the Confederate Forces. It was noted in the Confederate records that the State of Mississippi supplied them with mounts. Nothing can be found to indicate that Sterling F. Cannon or his sons served their state in any manner other than honorably.

\*\*\* (Wiley J.R. Cannon and Columbus Washington Cannon served in Perrin's **11th Regiment (Volunteers) of the Mississippi State Troops (Cavalry)**. I am amazed that my grandparents would not talk about the Civil War. I asked my Grandmother Colie Mae Cannon many times if relatives fought in the Civil War and she said no as many times as I asked her. Dr. Harvey Cannon missed the third son who fought in the Civil War. **John J. Cannon enlisted Company C., of the 8th Mississippi Cavalry.** Since John J. was only thirteen or fourteen years old, he must have lied about his age. I think he must have wanted to go badly in order to get some measure of revenge for his father's early death. I have a copy of the pension application where John J. Cannons wife Sarah Francis (Fannie) Franklin filed for a Confederate pension and was awarded this money. I am a little confused here. The photograph I have of Sterling F. Cannon would indicate that he survived the war. However, it may be that the photograph was made prior to his untimely death. It seems that one of the daughters might be bracing him or supporting him with one of her arms. I am sure he died because he does not show up on the 1870 census record with Arraminta. My Grandmother never discussed the Cannon family past Code so it may be that this Indian thing really bothered her. When she passed away the photographs of John J. Cannon and Sterling F. Cannon was found neatly tucked away in the bottom of her collection of photographs. Since Sterling F. Cannons photo was made on tin (called a tin type) and was with the three daughters that were obviously part Indian may have been the reason to hold this information secret.\*\*\*T.C.)

There is a recorded sale of Sterling and Arraminta Cannon's eighty acre homestead on June 4, 1863 to a Mr. John J. Nordin. They were paid \$225.00 for this land, which was appraised in the 1860 Agricultural Census for \$600.00. The S.F. Cannon place was described in the act of sale as the Northern half of the North-west Quarter of Section 14, Township 10, Range 11 in Neshoba County. This land is less than a half mile north of the present day Fairgrounds.

Graves for Sterling F. and Arraminta D. Earnest were not known until a listing in the 1978 edition of "Mississippi Bible and Cemetery Records" noted that there were five "native stone markers" in the Barrett Crossing Cemetery. Two of these markers were known to belong to Sterling F. Cannon (b. 1820--d. 1863) and Arraminta D. Earnest (b. 1825--d. after 1880). It was not noted who the three other graves belong to, but it is logical to that they probably belonged to their children who died young. The Barrett Crossing Cemetery is located on the South bank of the Pearl River, nearly surrounded by the Choctaw Indian Reservation. Since the Cannons were known to have lived in that area, the only logical explanation would be that they wanted to be buried with their younger children. In 1870, an original title was given to an A. Cannon in Section 11, Township 11, Range 10. this deed was for 80 acres, also on the South bank of the Pearl River, which is very near the Barrett Crossing Cemetery.

The following information about the family of Sterling and Arraminta Cannon was taken from the Federal Censuses.

**Mary E. Cannon** was born in 1840 in Kemper County, Mississippi. It is not known who she married (if she married) or when she died.

**Louisa Cannon** was born in 1842 in either Kemper or Neshoba County. She married a Robert Bell Harrison and are thought to be among the unidentified graves at the Good Hope Baptist Cemetery.

**Wiley J. R. Cannon** was born in 1844 in Neshoba County. He served in the Civil War as a Private in the Cavalry of the Mississippi State Troops. He was in Perrin's 11th Regiment. He is known to have survived the war, but his date of death, place of burial and who (if any) he married is unknown at this time.

**Columbus Washington Cannon** was the fourth child of Sterling and Arriminta Cannon. He was born in 1846, on December 12, in Neshoba County. He also enlisted in Perrin's 11th Calvary with his brother, Wiley. To enlist, he



probably gave a 1844 birthday, since he would have been too young to serve otherwise. His ages given in the 1850 and 1860 censuses confirm the 1846 birthdate, but he carried his 1844 "enlistment" birthdate to his grave, as listed on his tombstone.

He married Delilah P. Poole after the Civil War (about 1866) and sired 8 children. When Delilah died (at 42 years of age), "Uncle Bum" as he was called married Vira Woodward of Philadelphia. She was a 40 or 41 year old spinster and daughter of the Assistant Postmaster at Philadelphia, George P. Woodward. It is not known how long she lived after they married, but they had no children. She is buried at the Cedarlawn Cemetery in Philadelphia, next to her father. Delilah was interred at Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery. Columbus Washington's third wife was Mattie E. Alford. She bore three sons, one who died at a year old. Mattie was buried at Good Hope after she passed away in 1941. Uncle Bum died on December 22, 1925 in Neshoba County and is buried at Good Hope as well.

**John J. (John Jay)** was born in 1849. He married Sarah F.\*\*\* (maiden name unknown). It is not known when he died or where he is buried. He is known to have secured an original title to 40 acres of land near his mother on the South bank of the Pearl River. This 1891 title was in Section 13, Township 11, Range 10 of Neshoba County.

(\*\*\***John J. Cannon is the Great-Grandfather of Mearl, Willis Earl (Billy), Otis, and Patsy.**) These are the Children of Clifton Lamar (Cliff) and Eliza Cannon. John J. married Sarah Frances Franklin (Fannie). I believe John J. and Fannie are buried in the Blackjack Cemetery, because many of the Cannons are buried there. The parents of "Fannie" are buried there. I will write a section on John J. and his family after I finish with the rest of Dr. Harvey Cannons work.\*\*\*T.C.)

**Sarah A.V. Cannon** was born in 1852 in Neshoba County. Records of her death and burial have not been located. Her husband was James Franklin.\*\*\*

(\*\*\***James Franklin** was the brother of Sarah Frances Franklin the wife of John J. Cannon. Two Cannons of the same family and two Franklin's of the same family married. This often happen after the Civil War. That brother and sister would marry into neighboring families.\*\*\*T.C.)

**Charles Henry Cannon** was born in 1854 in Neshoba County. Who he married, if he married at all, and his death and burial are not known at this time. He did obtain an original title to 160 acres north of Pearl River in 1895. This quarter section was located in Section 35, Township 12, Range 10.

**Neal Brooks C. Cannon** was the youngest of the children. He was born in Neshoba County in 1859. His wife was Katie May. He died on December 31, 1926 and is buried next to Katie in the Black Jack Cemetery. This cemetery is two miles North of Highway 16 on the Indian Road. It is completely surrounded by the Choctaw Reservation.

One of Columbus Washington's granddaughters said Neal Brooks Cannon had lost a leg in the Civil War. Since he wasn't but six years old when the war ended, that possibility is highly unlikely. If he had but one leg, there had to be another reason.

(\*\*\*Black Jack Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Neshoba County. When I visited there I was in a hurry because I was trying to find the Barrett Crossing Cemetery. Barrett Crossing can only be visited in the dry months because it is deep within a wooded area and requires a four wheel drive to get there. I did not find it! Blackjack has many Cannon and Franklin graves. Many of Dr. Cannon's birth and death dates do not agree with what is recorded on the grave stones. However, he is within acceptable limits. Should you go to Blackjack it quite easy to find. I think the visitor would need at least four or five hours to really get a grasp of the kin that are interred here.\*\*\*)

## COLUMBUS WASHINGTON "UNCLE BUM" CANNON

**Columbus Washington Cannon** was the forth child and second son of Sterling F. Cannon and Arraminta D. Earnest Cannon. He was born in Neshoba County, Mississippi on December 12, 1846. His gravestone is in the Goodhope Baptist Cemetery lists the year of his birth as 1844. The difference between the 1846 date, as confirmed by the Federal Censuses of 1850 and 1860, and the date given on the tombstone was probably due to his needing to appear older to enlist in the Confederate service. Therefore, he carried the 1844 date of his birth to his grave.

The notice of his death in the Neshoba Democrat newspaper of December 24, 1926 mentioned that he was one of the last surviving members of General Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry. Confederate records in the state Archives in Jackson, Mississippi indicate that he and his brother Wiley J.R. Cannon, enlisted in the **11th (Perrin's) Battalion of the Mississippi State Cavalry**. Since he could not write, he made his mark, an X on his enlistment,



as well as his power of attorney given to the clerk of Court in Louisville, where he enlisted. While general Forrest may have commanded a much larger unit, encompassing Perrin's 11th Battalion, it will take further research to confirm this as a fact.

After the Civil War, about 1866 or early 1867, G.W. married Delilah P. Poole. She was the oldest of three daughters of William S. Poole and Mary Ann C. (maiden name unknown) Poole, being born in 1848. Delilah's father had died when she was about four or five years old. Her mother became a widow at 23 years of age. Her widowed mother kept house for her half brother, Mr. William Murrell (the local shoemaker) and a widower with several small children. They are all buried at Good Hope Baptist Cemetery.

Delilah P. Poole died on 5 October 1890, or 26 December, 1890, at the age of 42 years. She is buried at Good Hope Baptist Cemetery. She had born Columbus Washington eight children, five sons and three daughters. They were:

**William Francis Cannon**, called William, was born November 17, 1867 in Neshoba County. He married Augusta Porter. William died on August 30, 1939 at the age of 72. He and Augusta are buried in Bloomfield Cemetery, southeast of Philadelphia.

**Charles Washington Cannon**, called Washington, was born on February 2, 1869 in Neshoba County. He married Tabitha Ann Mason and raised a family in the Linwood McDonald communities south of the Good Hope Baptist Church and the Coldwater Community. He died on September 18, 1938 and is buried in the Linwood Cemetery.

(\*\*\*When I retired from Neshoba Central, I accepted a part time position with the Neshoba County Sheriff's Department as a jailer/dispatcher. Some months later the Sheriff hired a new jailer/dispatcher who had moved home from Arizona. You can imagine the surprise I had when a cousin showed up to work in the same place that I was working. His name is Larry Cannon and we immediately became good friends. Larry had retired from the US Navy after completing 22 years of service. Larry achieved the rank of WO# and was awarded nineteen decorations which includes a Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Achievement Medal. He also served a tour of duty in Vietnam. After retirement he moved to Arizona and worked for a while for the Sheriff's Department. Larry is currently considering a return to college to enter some field of Medicine. Larry gave me the following information on his family. Charles Washington will have nine children, they are:

1. Burner Cannon who will marry first Luren Belk and second Elenor Hymn.
  2. Lessie Cannon will marry Bill Mobley.
  3. Zean Cannon will marry Ora Johnson.
  4. Press Cannon will marry Dora Coghlin.
  5. Earnest Cannon will marry Anna Mathews first and second Madlin Madlock.
- They will have two children:
- A. Euriel Cannon who will marry Vera McMullin. They will have 3 children.
    1. Larry Cannon who will marry Betty Sanchez and have four children.
      - a. Steve Cannon who will marry Denise Cruz. Three children.
        - (1) Eric Cannon
        - (2) Melissa Cannon
        - (3) Anglie Cannon
      - b. Shelia Cannon will marry Jeff Hedgewood. Three children.
        - (1) David Hedgewood
        - (2) Richard Hedgewood
        - (3) Jeff Hedgewood Jr.
      - c. Valerie Cannon.
      - d. Michael Cannon.
    2. Cathy Cannon who will marry Braxton Miley.
    3. Cheryl Cannon who will marry Rex Savell.
  - B. Percell Cannon who will marry Betty Young. They will have three children.
    1. Deborah Cannon.
    2. Donna Cannon.
    3. Daffany Cannon.
6. Maver Cannon who will marry first Geneva Parker, second Alice Harrison.



7. Regan Cannon who will marry Myrtle \_\_\_\_\_.
8. J.C. Cannon will marry Erline \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Eskil Cannon who will marry R.G. Lewis.

**John Robert Cannon**, called Robert, was born in Neshoba County on August 16, 1872. He grew up, married and raised his family in the Coldwater Community. He married Margot Retha Magnolia Tullos. She was called Retha and was the daughter of Francis Marion Tullos and Sarah Matilda Deweese. They were married on December 12, 1894. She had eight children, four boys and four girls, before she died in the Summer of 1920. She is buried at Good Hope Baptist Cemetery.

Later that year Robert married a spinster lady of 49 years, a Miss. Nancy "Nannie" Ford. She died in 1943 and is buried in the good Hope Baptist Cemetery. John Robert Cannon lived until July 15, 1954. He was almost 82 years old when he passed away in the hospital in Anguilla, Mississippi. He was returned to Neshoba County for burial in the Good Hope Baptist Cemetery.

**Mary Ann Cannon**, was the forth child of C.W. and Delilah P. Poole Cannon. She was born August 25, 1875 in Neshoba County. She married Albert McNeil. She died on May 7, 1944 and is buried in the McNeil-Martin Cemetery near the Zephyr Hill Community.

**Julie Cannon**, was born in 1879. She married Martin N. Arledge who was about six years older than her. He was killed in 1922 by John Tingle, who was a brother-in-law to Mary Ann C. Poole, C.W.'s mother in-law. This was an on going feud between C.W. and his son in-law Martin Arledge. So bitter was the dis-agreement that John Robert Cannon and none of his children ever visited the Arledge's. After Martin was shot Julie moved to Laurel, Mississippi. It is possible that Mary Ann C. Poole also moved to Jones County. They are probably both buried there but their dates of death are unknown. Martin N. Arledge is known to have obtained an original title to 40 acres in Section 3, Township 11, Range 11 E. This deed issued in 1900, was for 40 acres due North of Good Hope Baptist Church. Martin Arledge is buried at Good Hope.

**Jim L. Cannon**, was the next son born to C.W. and Delilah Poole Cannon. He was born in Neshoba County on August 24, 1881. He married Ida Stroud and died on March 2, 1958 at 70 years of age. Little else is known about Jim Cannon by this writer.

**George A. Cannon**, was born on August 12, 1885. He married Claudia B. DeWeese who was five years his junior. George died at age 64 on the 12th of October, 1949. Claudia lived to be 81 when she died in 1971. Both are buried at Good Baptist Church where most of the Cannons were members.

**Louise Cannon**, was Delilah's last child. She was born March 3, 1888. She told her niece that she never went to school. The boys only got to go when the weather was bad or cold. She could hardly write and could not spell very good. She married Harrison H. Deweese and raised a family. They are buried at Good Hope. She died on November 19, 1970 at the age of 82 years.

It is not known exactly when Columbus Washington Cannon remarried. He did marry Elvira "Vira" Woodward, a spinster lady between 1891 and 1893. They had no children. Her father was the Assistant Postmaster at Philadelphia, George P. Woodward. When she died in 1894, her gravemarker notes that she 41 years 4 months and 15 days old, when she died. She is buried next to her father and another sister in Cedarlawn Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Columbus Washington Cannon's third wife was Mattie E. Alford. She was born in 1846 and bore him three sons before the turn of the century.

**Warren E. Cannon** was born in 1896 and lived only one year.

**Carraway Cannon** was the oldest, being born on September 17, 1894. He served in the Army in World War I and married Alda Trapp. He moved to near Jackson, Mississippi to work for the State Highway Department. He died on October 8, 1967 and is buried in the Greenfield Methodist Church Cemetery in Rankin County. Some "word-of-mouth information in 1986 indicated Alda Trapp Cannon was still living in the Rankin County area.

**Marshall Threefoot Cannon**, was the youngest of Mattie and Uncle's Bum's children. He was born in 1898 and was a farmer in Neshoba County. He died in 1971 and is buried in the Hembree Family Cemetery on Highway 16, just North of the Good Hope Baptist Church. His widow, the former **Lucille Hembree**, still lives on the old "home place"



on the fairgrounds road. She was alert in her 85th year when this writer talked to her by phone in the Summer of 1986.

**Mattie E. Alford Cannon** lived with Marshall and Lucille Cannon after Columbus Washington "Uncle Bum" Cannon died on December 22, 1925. Mattie died almost 16 years later on December 9, 1941. She is buried next to C.W. Cannon in the Good Hope Baptist Cemetery.

## JOHN ROBERT CANNON

Granddaddy Robert as this writer remembers him, was born in Neshoba County's Coldwater Community on August 16, 1872. He was the third child of Columbus Washington and Delilah P. Poole Cannon. He married a tall beautiful, red-headed lady, Margot Retha Martha Tullos, called Retha, on December 12, 1894. Retha was born on July 24, 1878 to Francis Marion Tullos and Sarah Ann Matilda DeWeese Tullos, called Marion and Tildy. Retha had one older sister who died at two years of age.

For those who think that Retha's full name is unusual consider her cousin, Rose Ella Belle Zora Texanna Jane Tullos. Graciously, she was listed in the census only as Texanna J. Tullos, while Retha was commonly used for J.R.'s future wife. The 1880 Census taker recorded Margoretta Tullos for the two year old Retha. More in this volume on eight preceding generations of the Tullos line.

Ruby Cannon Campbell, Robert's youngest daughter relates this story that her father told her many times.

"In the year prior to his marriage, he had made a crop, evidently on his father's farm. He took a bale of cotton to Meridian, the only market available to Neshoba County farmers in those days. For convenience and safety, they traveled in groups and spent the nights in wagon camps along the way. It took three days to get to Meridian, a forty mile trip. With the money he received from the sale of the bale of cotton, he bought a bed and springs, a cook stove, a wedding band and a suit for his wedding."

Ruby could not remember the amount of money received, but compared with today's prices, how much could a person buy with a bale of cotton?

This writer's mother, Virgie Savell (Mrs Harvey W.) Cannon, recalled that on one of these trips to Meridian, John Robert Cannon had stopped off at her grandmother's store. After Rosanna "Betty" Smith Savell was widowed (John Carroll Savell was killed in a logging accident in 1898), she opened a General Store on the Deemer Road, near the present day Cross Roads Baptist Church. On this occasion, John Robert Cannon bought an iron skillet from Betty Savell. He probably made the purchase on the return trip when he had the money from the sale of his cotton. This writer can remember eating corn bread cooked in that skillet. See the section of this volume concerning the Savell line. There were eight children born to the Robert Cannon-Retha Tullos union, oddly enough in alternating pairs. There were four boys and four girls, all born in Neshoba County, Mississippi.

**Sylvester Stuart Cannon**, was the oldest son, born on November 7, 1895. He married Ila Johnson of Neshoba County on June 7, 1913. After farming in Neshoba County, he moved to New Orleans after World War II. He died there on June 14, 1961. He and Ila are buried in the Cedarlawn Cemetery in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Sylvester and Ila had six girls and one son, Eddie Gray Cannon. He lives in Vicksburg, Mississippi and has one son and one daughter, both married. These two have five daughter between them, so the Cannon name may stop there. Like sylvester, Verner's first born died in infancy. He was buried in the Black Jack Cemetery, North of highway 16 on the Indian road. Sylvester's oldest, Audine is buried at Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Verner Zeola Cannon**, was born on September 21, 1897. He married Jessie Dennis on February 15, 1915. Verner died on February 27, 1979. He and Jessie are buried in Houston, Texas where most of their family now live. One of their daughters, Laverne Cannon (Mrs. Earl) Alford is the only descendent of John Robert Cannon still living in Neshoba County. Laverne and Earl had 12 children, including triplets.

Verner and Jessie had two other sons and three daughters. Charles C. Cannon of Houston has a son, who produced a male offspring in recent years. The other son, Carl Willard Cannon, who was doing pipeline welding in the mid-west in 1984 has two daughters by his first marriage and two sons by his second marriage. The Cannon name will live at least another generation.

**Mary Ann Delilah Cannon**, was the third child and oldest daughter. Delilah was born on March 12, 1900. She married a neighbor and school mate, Milford Raymond Jones on March 27, 1916. The Jones moved to Northern Shelby County, Tennessee (near Millinton) to farm and raise their family. They had two sons and six daughters. The



two youngest daughters died in a house fire in 1949, in which Delilah was badly burned. Two of the three surviving daughters still live in the Memphis area.

**Onie Lee Cannon**, the forth child, was born on June 11, 1902. She married Charles McCord on April 14, 1924. They had two large farms of over 2,000 acres each near Marked Tree and Tyronsa, Arkansas. They two sons and a daughter. Sometime after World War II, the McCords moved to Tucson, Arizona for his health. There he became a successful building contractor and real estate developer.

After Charles died in 1957, Onie continued to live in the Tucson area for some time. In her later years, she went to live with her daughter, Mary in Valley Center, California. Charles Monroe McCord, the oldest son lives in Shingle Springs, California. Jim McCord, the youngest, lives in Garretson, South Dakota. Mary died of Cancer in the spring of 1987.

Onie suffered from Alzheimer's Disease in her later years. She died on January 12, 1985 at the age of 86 years. She is buried next to Charles McCord in Tucson, Arizona. Delilah Cannon Jones died on August 3, 1973, some 22 years after her husband, Milford. They are buried in the Union Cemetery in Norther Shelby County, Tennessee.

**Harvey Whittle Cannon**, was born on the 29th of December, 1904. He was the fifth child and third son of John Robert and Retha Tullos Cannon. He married Virgie Lee Savell, the oldest daughter of Willoughby Henry "Will" Nancy Jane "Nannie" Kilpatrick Savell of the County Line Community. They met and married in Meridian, Mississippi while both worked at the East Mississippi State Hospital. A Rev. DuBois married the couple on October 4, 1930.

Harvey bought 40 acres near the Tucker community and built a small, four room house where their sons, Harvey W. Jr., and Billy Ab were born. They farmed the 40 acres and Harvey ran a portable sawmill for Mr. Billy Ab DeWeese. The place was sold to the Department of the Interior as an addition to the Choctaw Indian Reservation in 1937 or 1938. Harvey then bought the Beech Farm, on the West side of Philadelphia. This 162 acre place flooded for several years with back water from the Kentawka Canal and Pearl River. This wiped them out financially.

Harvey W. Cannon, Sr. followed "defense work" as a machinist before and during World War II and settled in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. After an industrial accident, in which he lost a leg, he worked with Men's Housing at Louisiana State University. He died on November 15, 1972 and is buried in Green Oak, Cemetery in Baton Rouge. Virgie died on October 11, 1985 and is buried next to him.

**Robert Bankston Cannon**, was born on March 27, 1907. He was the forth son and the sixth child in the family. He married Rae Baker and had a daughter and a son. He managed a farm for Charles and Onie Cannon Mccord in Arkansas until his early death. On October 8, 1944, he went to the doctor's office with chest pains. He died in the waiting room of a heart attack. His widow moved back to the St. Louis, Missouri area remarried and contact has been lost. The daughter, Martha Ray Cannon Malone attended a family reunion in Anguilla, Mississippi in 1963. She has not been heard from since. Efforts to contact the son, Robert Bankston Cannon, Jr. are continuing.

The two youngest daughters of Robert and Retha are widowed and still living in Mississippi, as of the writing. Venie Matilda Cannon, Keith and Ruby Estelle Cannon Campbell are living in Anguilla and Southaven, respectively.

**Vernie Matilda Cannon**, was born on August 8, 1910. She married John Franklin Keith on December 2, 1931. They raised a family of two sons and two daughters in Anguilla, Mississippi. Frank died on /September 5, 1985 at home. Their children presently live in Bakersfield, California; Longview, Texas; Senatobia, Mississippi and Anguilla, Mississippi.

**Ruby Estelle Cannon**, was born on December 23, 1912. She married Macon Douglas Campbell on January 7, 1935. The operated a store North of Memphis, Tennessee in Shelby County until he passed away in 1968. Their family consists of a daughter and three sons, all of whom still reside in the Memphis area. Ruby resides with her daughter and son-in-law, Martha Jean and Bill Knichel, in Southaven, Mississippi.

John and Retha lived together until her death on june 30, 1920. conflicting reports on her cause of death say Pellagra, a dietary deficiency disorder common to the South: Bright's disease, a kidney failure or nephritis, which causes swelling of the eyes, face, hands, etc., enlargement of the heart, high blood pressure, and chronic malnutrition; or Scarlet Fever. The malnutrition has traits similar to Pellagra. Therefore, it would be safe to assume that due to her swollen features in the existing (1907) picture's of her, Bright's (acute or chronic nephritis) was probably the cause of death. Retha is buried in the Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery next to her parents. Her husband, grandparents, and in-laws are buried within a 50 foot circle.

John Robert Cannon re-married later that fall. He married Nancy "Nannie" Ford, a 49 year old spinster lady. Her parents are not known at this time, but a widowed sister of hers; Mary Elizabeth Ford Cummins, lived with them until her death in 1941. Nannie died in 1943 and is buried next to Robert at Good Hope.

It can be said for Nannie that "she took good care of Robert". He was always given the best cut of meat and



the largest piece of pie. This writer can remember his father telling of their switching the "fattest" pie for a skimpier one. She just couldn't understand it while the children bragged on how good the pie was.

John Robert Cannon spent his last days with a daughter, Venie, in Anguilla, Mississippi. He was in the hospital at Anguilla on the afternoon of July 15, 1954. When a nurse asked, "How are you feeling Granddaddy?" His response was a rubbing of his thumb and middle finger together, indicating that he felt with his fingers. On her next round, he had quietly passed away.

He is buried in a three grave plot next to his second wife, Nannie. Her sister, Mary Elizabeth Ford Cummins is buried further South, at the Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery. Columbus Washington "Uncle Bum" Cannon, Delilah P. Poole Cannon and Mattie Alford Cannon are buried about 20 feet away to the south. Retha Tullos Cannon, and her parents and Mr. William Murrel, the local shoemaker and Mary ann Poole's half-brother are buried about 15 to 20 feet away to the northeast in this large and rather old church cemetery.

It is unusual that all of John Robert Cannon's children moved away from Neshoba County. Only one, Sylvester, was brought back for burial in Neshoba County. Verner's daughter, Laverne Cannon (Mrs. Carl Alford of the Sandtown community) is the only grandchild of Robert and Retha Tullos Cannon to remain in Neshoba County. Possibly, it is an example of how economic factors affect our lives. Perhaps it is better to remember family ties and strengthen them.

Harvey W. Cannon, Sr. and his sons and their offspring will be treated in the earlier section of this four major family work, called "the Author and his Family." My challenge to my first and second cousins, great uncles and their families, or anyone else along these "blood lines", is to take this material and expand upon it. Each knows the stories of their families much better than this writer. Should any person be able to expand these four major lineages and wish to add their material to this volume, please feel free to do so in Philadelphia-Neshoba County Public Library with your identity attached to your contribution. This writer would also appreciate a copy of any addition to place with his master file.

Harvey W. Cannon, Jr. Ed. D.  
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\*\*\*\* I Tim Croswell have copied the above work of Dr. Cannon just as the original was written. It is his work and it has become very valuable. I have copied his work so that it would preface my work and so that the reader could have a complete story of the Cannon family without having to refer to additional volumes of work. Please remember while reading this that it is Dr. Cannon's work. I went to Baton Rouge to see Dr. Cannon and learned that he had passed away after suffering a severe heart attack. I was hoping that Dr. Cannon could see the addition of my material but this was not to be. I can only hope that some kin in the future can appreciate the work that both of us have done. If this is true then the many hours of hard work will have been worthwhile. Dr. Cannon's brother is still alive and living in Baton Rouge. He has a very successful dental practice there and was one of L.S.U.'s greatest football players.

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## MORE DESCENDANT'S OF STERLING F. CANNON

*By*

TIM CROSWELL, M.Ed.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to sit down and write what I know concerning the Cannon family. I am very proud to be a part of this family and I hope someone in the future will see fit to keep adding to this work so there will always be a complete family history which very few families can boast of. I hope this will bring back many fond memories to the reader and perhaps much new information may be gleaned from the on going pages.

### STERLING F. CANNON

Sterling F. Cannon is the son of William Cannon, who is the son of John J. Cannon via Kentucky and Pennsylvania. From the account of Dr. Harvey W. Cannon Jr. we find the Cannon's migrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky. The youngsters of these families married early in life and having the urge to explore new lands headed into the Southwest. Dr. Cannon expounds that the early Cannon's may have been caught in the timber business and moved their goods to New Orleans via the Mississippi River, then traveling by the Natchez Trace, an early Post road through the state, into Tennessee then into Kentucky. However, having spent my life studying the history of the United States, I believe William started into the Southwest with his wife by wagon train by the known trails of the day. This would account for William showing up with other Cannon's on the Alabama Census Records.

Several of William's children were born in Alabama. There is some speculation as to where William left Kentucky with a wife or not. My feeling is that William left Kentucky without a wife. The hardships of the trip, the loneliness of the trip, and the befriending of the Indians along the way probably helped the Cannon boys decide to take Indian wives as there were seldom if any white females to choose from.

The Indian stretched from what is now Mississippi into the Carolinas. This Indian land was comprised of the Choctaw, the Chickasaw and the Cherokee Indian Nation. The Choctaws were the larger of the three nations and always at peace with the whites. Having come overland from Kentucky we can assume that once the Cannon boys entered into Alabama they came into contact with the Indian tribes. This could have come from the loneliness of the trip, or perhaps one of the brothers became sick and needed to stop among the Indian people for help, food, and rest.

We know that William took a wife while in Alabama and there is much evidence to support the fact that Selah was probably an Indian squaw. William's wife was probably a squaw of the Choctaw tribe since it was the larger of the three tribes. The Choctaw's never raised up arms against the white man and were known for their hospitality toward white's. Thus William and Selah spent their lives raising their family within the confines of the Choctaw nation. As their lives came to an end they had traveled as what will become Kemper county, Mississippi. William and Selah were in Kemper County, Mississippi while it was still a part of the Southwest territory before the Choctaw nation ceded the land to the United States. William and Selah are buried in the Cannon cemetery near Scooba, Mississippi. On the tomb of William and Selah the term "consort" is used referring to Selah. The word consort is a word from the Scotch-Irish language meaning the wife of a patriarch. This word would then have been used in its correct connotation because the oldest living male of the family was always in control. The story of Sterling F. Cannon and his wife Arraminta Earnest Cannon is well written in the preceding pages by Dr. Harvey W. Cannon Jr. It is unfortunate that Sterling F. Cannon sustained an injury or disease that would lead to his early untimely death. Many Confederate soldiers were sent home to recuperate from dysentery or a gun shot injury. There were many Confederate soldiers who lost their lives to dysentery because of the unsanitary conditions of camp life and the poor way in which food was prepared over open camp fires. Medicine was not very advanced during this period either. The Doctor's were poorly trained and had little in the way of drugs to help people get well. No one knew about germs or bacteria which caused many a soldier on both sides to lose their lives from the simplest of injuries. An example of this primitive medicine was how a gun shot that broke a bone in an arm or leg was treated. The victim was given a shot of whiskey, held down, and the limb was sawed off above the wound.



If that was not enough horror, the person then had to fight infection. If the amputated limb became infected, then gangrene set in and the person slowly and painfully died of blood poisoning.

This writer is the possession of a "tin type" photograph that he believes to be Sterling F. Cannon and three of his daughters. It is very obvious that Sterling F. and his daughters are part Indian. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that this is less than the truth. The photograph authenticates all the information that we have about the Cannon family. The tin type was neatly packed away in my grandmother's, Colie Mae Ingram Thornton Cannon, photo collection. Along with this photo was a photo of John J. and Monroe Code Cannon.

Today, it is hard for the reader to understand why so many Mississippian's went off to the Civil War as Sterling F. and his sons did. In this period in history, there was no spirit of Nationalism as there is today. In the 1860's there was a strong spirit of independence and states rights. These early settlers and farmers had survived by their "wits" and were determined that each state had the right to determine for itself as to how it would govern itself. The Cannon's were strong willed as they are today and I imagine Lincoln and his policies went against the grain. Thus, the Cannon's took up arms for the right to decide for themselves as to how they would be governed. The Cannon's are equally patriotic to the United States as they were to the South. In each succeeding generation the male members have volunteered for military service. From World War I through Desert Storm of 1992 Cannon's have fought and died for the United States. They are just as determined today that they will always be free and independent spirits to live their lives as best as they can.

Understanding this, helps to understand why so few Cannon's have failed in their life's work. To say the least Sterling F. Cannon and his children made many, many contributions to the development of Mississippi.

Dr. Harvey W. Cannon has done a superb job in relating the early history of the Cannon family. Since Dr. Cannon did not copywrite his work, he left it where future writers could had to his work as they see fit. I will follow his lead and leave the work that I have done uncopywrited, so that other writer's in the future can keep adding as I have undertaken to do. I have added cements and additions that I have carefully researched. I have not undertaken to change any of Dr. Cannon's work but in my own way to add further illumination to a well written history. It is with the ending of this paragraph that a new history will begin of another branch of the Cannon family. I will depart to a degree from the format that Dr. Cannon has used. With the historical aspect of the Cannon family I will write more of the personal history of the Cannon family as I can recall. I would hope that anyone reading the on going pages would be able to grasp the tremendous amount of LOVE each I feel for each member of this family. Here I will begin the life of John J. Cannon son of Sterling F. Cannon.



## John J. Cannon

John J. Cannon (b. 7-1849) was thought not to have served in the Civil War. The truth of the matter is that he did. ? was not as an important consideration as physical size and stamina. Just about every male in Neshoba County went to the Civil War even if it meant exaggerating the truth of age. John J. (14 or 15) was not of age but after his father's death must have he wanted some measure of revenge. When a Company was formed in Neshoba County in 1863 John J. enlisted. He served from 1863 until 1865 in Company C., of the 8th Mississippi Calvary. We can verify this by at least his sources. We have in our possession a photograph of John J. wearing his confederate ? coat. He seems to have several re-union buttons pinned to his coat and is standing in the photo with his daughter. Behind the two of them in the photograph appears to be a Cannon Caisson indicating that the photograph was made at a Civil War reunion.

This writer also has in his possession a photocopy of the pension application filed by Fannie Cannon, wife of John J. Cannon. The questions and answers are below.

1. What is your name? Answer: Fannie Cannon;
2. What is your age? Answer: 77 years;
3. In what state and county do you reside? Answer: Neshoba County, State of Mississippi;
4. How long have you resided in Mississippi? Answer: All my life;
5. What is the name of your postoffice? Answer: Philadelphia;
6. Are you a bona fide resident of the United States and the State of Mississippi? Answer: yes;
7. What is your husband's name? Answer: John J. Cannon;
8. When were you married? Answer: 1870;
9. Where were you married? Answer: Neshoba County, Mississippi;
10. Have you since remarried? Answer: no;
11. Are you an inmate of Beavoir Soldier's Home? Answer: no;
12. Was your husband a bona-fide resident of the United States and the State of Mississippi? Answer: yes;
13. What was the date of your husband's enlistment? Answer: 1863;
14. Give the place of his enlistment. Answer: Neshoba County, Mississippi;
15. Give the names of officers of his company, regiment or vessel. Answer: Captain Chandler, and Colonel Cunningham;
16. Was he ever discharged from his command? Answer: No;
17. Not answered;
18. Was he in active service at the surrender in 1865? Answer: yes;
19. Not answered;
20. What is your net income? Answer: None.

After being reviewed by the Pension Board, Fannie Cannon was approved for a pension. (Fannie Cannon was Sarah Francis Franklin.)

Even before John J. had reached manhood or married, he had served three years in the Army of the Confederate States of America. This after all, was really how young people lived during this period in history. They had little schooling, worked hard, married early in life, and became independent of their parents at an early age. If we could see the horror and fear John J. experienced so young, we would probably be amazed.

We have no record of what John J. did between 1865 and 1870. If history serves as a guide for us, we can assume that John J. returned home with his two brothers to help Arraminta get the farm in order. The Civil War took its toll on the Southern economy. Even though Neshoba County experienced no major fighting on its soil, agriculture and farms suffered from serious neglect. Many a soldier returned home in Mississippi to find everything lost. Even though their mother Arraminta seemed to have survived with the girls, what was her real financial shape? I imagine the boys were required to work long hard hours to get the farm back in order.

Five years after the Civil War was over, John J. Cannon (7-1849) married Sarah Francis Franklin (3-1848), daughter of Mason Franklin. They then start their own family and farm. Their children are:

1. **William Hugh** b. 1872 m. Lilian S. Walker 1895
2. **Sally P.** b. 1875 m. Joshua Hugh King
3. **Fanny Lee** b. 1876
4. **John H.** b. 1876 m. Gertrude Franklin 1927
5. **Mattie** b. 1874

6. **Zella Mearl Michael** b. 1886, died at age one or two
  7. **Monroe Code** b. 1886 m. Colie Ingram Thornton 1906
  9. **Pearl** b. 1888 m. Raiford W. Hembree
  10. **Mason Franklin** b. 1890 m. Eva Smith
- \*Zella Mearl Michael is a twin to Monroe Code.

This writer does not know for certain as to where the John J. Cannon farm was located. Dr. Cannon has indicated that a deed was recorded that John J. had bought some land on the South bank of the Pearl River. This would seem reasonable because of the fact Sterling and Arraminta are buried in the Barrett Crossing Cemetery on the banks of the Pearl River. Other family members are buried in the Black Jack Cemetery which is not far from the Pearl River.

From the records that we have, we know that John J. and Fannie were ? but had a successful farm and were able to raise and provide for their family.

I have several photographs of Fannie which indicated she had a long and good life. In talking with my older brothers, they remembered some details about Fannie. The most striking detail was that Fannie had a rather large hump in her back that caused her to talk in a bent over position. Rather than a birth defect, I suspect this was caused by very hard work and perhaps Rheumatoid Arthritis. No one knows if this caused Fannie any pain but from my experience with arthritis, I can tell you that it is very painful.

In studying John J.'s and Fannie's children, we find some unusual facts. The first one that amazed me was the fact that Monroe Code had a twin brother, Zella Mearl Michael. Having a twin brother myself, I can imagine what Code missed when his twin died at one or two years of age.

The second thing I learned was that Sarah Francis (Fannie) also had a twin. In studying the rest of the children, we find that they married well and raised their own families and were successful farmers.

The rest of the children's lives might not have been important to this history and not another story developed. In 1990, I was contacted by Edna Jennings of St. Louis, Missouri about some children that we were supposed to be kin to. As it turns out, I will start on an adventure that will take some three years to solve. As a result of that inquiry, the complete story of the Cannon family will unfold. I will write this adventure in the entirety when I write the story of Monroe Code Cannon and Colie Mae Ingram Thornton Cannon.

So far as this writer knows everyone of John J.'s and Fannie's children were successful and lead good lives. There certainly could have been a separate book written about each of them. Descendants of these families are still living in Neshoba County in 1993.

To continue we will pick up with Monroe Code Cannon to get out story to the present generation of Cannon's.



## Monroe Code Cannon

(B. 3-5-1886 D. 12-23-1943)

Not a lot is known about the early life of Monroe Code Cannon. I suspect he grew up going to school when he could and working hard on the farm. Monroe Code was known to his friends as Code and to the grandchildren as "Pa". Pa was not quite 6' tall and was a very muscular man for a person of his size.

Pa was a man that believed in hard work and followed the ? of early to bed and early to rise. His strong belief in hard work will eventually cause his early death. Pa was true to his Scotch ancestry. He was very frugal with his money and loved laughter and practical jokes. Many of the children that grew up knowing Pa spoke of the practical jokes he was always pulling on them.

Because of the children I ? to earlier Pa was brought into contact with Colie Mae Ingram Thornton. Because of the story of the Franklin children is a long one, I will write that story when I write the story of my grandmother. She had the most to do with these children so it will be a more fitting place to write about the children in her part.

Pa, Monroe Code Cannon, and Nannie, Codie Mae Ingram, were married on the 14th day of August 1906. Pa was twenty years old and nannie was twenty-four years old when they began married life. Nannie had brought two small children into this marriage. They were Edgar Preston Thornton, six years, and Helen Marie Thornton, four years. Pa took these children as his own and raised them that way. I believe they loved Pa as much or more than they would have loved their own father.

All four children were sent to school and made to work. That was what children in this era expected. Work and chores came before anything else. I never heard any of the four of them complain about their childhood, even though it must have been very hard. My mother started cooking for the family by standing on a wooden box in front of a wood burning stove. The boys I am sure were put to hard work at an early age because mother said she had to do the washing, cooking, cleaning and canning. I expect the boys had the worst end of it by going to the fields at an early age. Everyone that could work worked hard because it took everyone to squeeze a living out of the earth.

How long Pa and Nannie lived at the fairgrounds or Coldwater I do not know. Eventually Pa and Nannie will move to what has been called the Sutt Long place in the Bloomfield community. In talking with my brothers I believe other family members were living here also. I believe an attorney in the City of Philadelphia owns this land now. The first recollection I have of their home was located on the last turn to the American Legion Lake, now known as the Neshoba Lake.

By this time, Uncle Edgar was forty years old, Mother thirty-eight years old, Uncle Cliff was thirty-three years old and Uncle Frank was twenty-nine years old. So they were on their own and had started their won families. This house was nestled under a large oak tree some thirty or forty feet off the road. This house is still standing today and is the only house still in existence that belonged tho this family. Somewhere along the way to the Bloomfield community Pa quit farming and turned to logging as a means to earn a living. Talking with some of the older men in town, I found out about this and the fact that Pa was one of the best loggers in the area. Just imagine having to cut trees with cross-cut saws and then hauling them many miles to the mill by horse and wagon.

In good or bad weather, Pa would be working at something. He was not the type of person that could sit around and do nothing. During the winter of 1943 Pa caught what today wold be called the flu. This ? eventually turned into double-Pneumonia. The only treatment known for this at the time was mustard plusters or sweating the disease out of the patient. I remember Nannie saying that the last day of Pa's life when he was so sick he asked Nannie to cook him some blackberry cobbler. She did and that evening Pa quietly passed on.

Today, we know that Pneumonia can be a very serious illness. The lungs become congested with fluid making it impossible for the heart and lungs to work. This was during the time before the miracle drug of penicillin existed, which easily reverses the illness and the patient recovers in a short time. During the time of "outhouses", kerosene lamps, gravel roads, horses, wagons and the like there was no such drug.

At the age of three, I can remember very vividly standing at the foot of Pa's bed and crying because he was so sick. He wouldn't get up no matter what! Of course, young children have no way of knowing about a serious illness or why God chose to take Pa to heaven. The only thing I knew was that Pa was gone and that left an empty place in our hearts that took years to overcome. We loved Pa very, very much.



Pa and Nannie had lived together for thirty-seven years. Many times Nannie could be caught with a tear in her eye and we always knew she was thinking about Pa.

**The children of Monroe Code and Colie Mae Cannon are:**

1. Edgar Preston Thornton b. 10-15-1900 m. Bertha Yates 2-15-1907
2. Helen Marie Thornton b. 9-17-1902 m. Walter Newton Croswell
3. Clifton Lamar Cannon b. 8-15-1907 m. Eliza L. b. 7-2-1904
4. Frank Cannon b. 1-17-1911 m. 1) Verda 2) Marie

**COLIE MAE INGRAM THORNTON**

Colie Mae Ingram Thornton (b. 11 September 1882 d. 17 February 1967) was the daughter of John Tom Ingram and Mary (Mollie) Salter Ingram. Colie was born on a farm in the Beat 5 district of Neshoba County. John Tom was fairly prosperous and had built a two story home in Beat 5 with the help of slaves owned by his father-in-law, David Michael Salter, Sr. This house eventually fell into the hands of the Etheridge family and was carefully torn down, with all the boards numbered, and moved to Columbus, Mississippi. Perhaps one day it will come out of storage and be rebuilt.

John Tom Ingram and Mary Salter were married in the home of David Michael Salter, Sr. on the 21 day of December 1875. Some six years later, the first child was born into this union. Charlie Hugh Ingram was born 15 January 1881 followed by Colie Mae on 11 September 1882 and then Mary Caroline on the 13th day of May 1884.

Mary Salter Ingram was afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis and so I imagine Charlie and Colie had to grow up fast helping with the work around the farm. I am sure their childhood was a happy one because I never heard Mother or Nannie say otherwise.

Mary Caroline would not live long. At the age of three, she contracted an illness that would claim her life. This must have had a profound affect on Nannie because a picture of Mary Caroline was always prominently displayed in her home until the time of her death. Mary Caroline was buried on the home place in Beat 5.

John Tom's and Mary's life is very difficult to follow. They lived on several farms in Neshoba County, then for a while in Arkansas, then Ora, Mississippi and finally back to Neshoba County. This was not all the family went back to Ora, Mississippi and stayed there for a lengthy period of time. I do not remember how much schooling Nannie had but what ever amount she had was taken in Neshoba County. Though her spelling was not good, she had a pretty handwriting and was as educated as anyone of her day.

In trying to find out about where Nannie went to school, I found this article by R. L. Breland in the Neshoba Democrat dated December 18, 1931.

"Things happen along life's trail that carries us back to the days of long ago. The recent tragic death of my dear friend, W. F. Hobby, brought back to mind vividly my first public school that I taught. It was in Beat Five, at Pleasant Springs School near the home of my friend Hobby. While teaching there part of the time was spent in the friendly home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hobby. They were young people then and I was a lad of a boy. No lonely, home-sick boy ever had a more pleasant and home-like place to stay then did I. I learned to love the family then and the same love lingers still."

"But I was thinking of that first school. It was the first Monday in November, 1893, about eight o'clock in the morning that my carriage, a wagon drawn by two horses and driven by my brother, Marion, landed at the little plank schoolhouse beside the road. Some dozen boys and girls were playing in front of the house. They informed me that the patrons were in the woods getting some rocks to repair the chimney. While waiting for them to arrive brother left for his home south of the river. I was some home-sick when he left and felt exactly like going back with him, but I must stick."

"Finally, the patrons came in with their rock, and after a few remarks it was decided to organize the school, 'the professor' would deliver his 'Oration' and then the school would dismiss for the day to give opportunity to repair the chimney so that we could have fire. So into the house we went. The names of the students present were enrolled. I gave them a short and 'knowing' talk on how to conduct the school and we adjourned. I arranged with Mr. Hobby to board with him. It was about one mile to his home, he had one child then old enough to attend school and he was willing to take the teacher so that



the boy, William, could have company to and from school. I have always been glad it happened that way."

"From memory I can name the patrons present that first morning at school for it was a small school. They were: A.C. Gamblin, Frank Hobby, Tom Ingram, Snugg Ingram, William Henry Ingram and Joe Byars. The passing of my good friend Hobby recently was the last of the group of men, so far as I am informed, who lives. Unless, perhaps, Snugg Ingram still lives. It makes one lonely as he thinks of the going of those with whom he once associated and who were friends indeed. As I recall there were only 13 students that day. These I remember as Charlie and Colie Ingram; William Hobby; Curtis, Henry and Jofie Gamblin; Tommy and Mounger Byars; Willie, Jimmy and Mary Ingram; and Bernice and Earl Ingram. Not many of them, but they were the best children I thought in the land. One Walter Webb taught the school just ahead of me, and I saw pretty soon that he had them under good control. I kept them that way. I really had no trouble with that bunch of boys and girls. I loved them then, and I love them yet; and they seemed to love me. Where are my thirteen boys and girls after 38 years have passed? Some of them have crossed to the great beyond, others have gone out to other parts of the country and still others are getting to be the older men and women of our own county. Children, I wish you well."

On the 29th day of December 1899, Colie married Emmette Lafayette Thornton. At the age of nineteen, Colie Mae starts her adult life with Emmette. Emmette was a big handsome red-headed Irish-man. From the photographs I have, Emmette was a good looking man, so I imagine she thought she had found her Prince Charming.

I have a deed in my records where Emmette L. Thornton purchased eighty acres of land from D.S. Salter for three hundred dollars the 22 day of February 1902. This land had a high hill which was on the side of the road. It was on the top of this hill that Emmette and Colie Mae built their home. For the period of time it was built, I would consider it as one of the finer homes of the day. The deed description read: as the west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Northwest quarter comprising eighty acres more or less of Section one in Township 11, of Range 10 East in the County of Neshoba and the State of Mississippi.

Into this union two children were born: Edgar Preston Thornton on the 5th day of October 1900 and Helen Marie Thornton on the 19th of September 1902. Having two children, a farm of eighty acres and a nice home, one would think that everything was as good as it could possibly be. This was not true; however, and for the most part what happened in the four or five years of this marriage was never discussed in my presence. I have no idea what lead to the divorce of Emmette and Colie. Because of the letter I received from Edna Jennings in 1990, I began to dig out a few of the facts.

Edna wrote that her grandmother, Cora Mae Franklin, had been adopted by John Tom Ingram and Mary. She was not sure who the parents of the Franklin children were or why they had been adopted by the Ingrams. For a while, I discounted this as a rumor and did not give Edna much attention. Then I happened to remember I had seen a photograph of Mason Franklin and Cora Mae Franklin in Nannie's photo collection. Sure enough they were there and that will lead to several years of hard work and a collection of hundreds of pages of documents. You can imagine the shock I had because I had never, never heard of these children and I still have no explanation for that. I will insert the story here because it may have been part of the cause of Emmette and Colie Mae divorcing and I am sure lead her to come into contact with Monroe Code Cannon.

Here is what Edna knew when we began our investigation. Edna's grandfather was "Bud" Franklin and her grandmother was "Bellie" Watkins. We knew the name of the four children. They were:

1. John Wesley Franklin - born about 1892 and married Ollie Wachworth -1910;
2. Ella Gertrude (Sudie) Franklin - born 1894;
3. Mason (Mace) Franklin - born about 1896 and married Eva Smith in 1918;
4. Cora Mae Franklin - born 10-1-1899 and married Charles F. Edwards - 9-5-1914.

Edna thought "Belle" might have been an Indian squaw and that further complicated things because there are few records on Indians. The oral history of the children said that Belle died during a yellow fever epidemic that struck most of Mississippi. This was the time and in some cases whole towns were nearly wiped out.

This was where Edna and I began, not knowing if the puzzle would ever be resolved. I didn't know why but I had a inner driving force wanting to find the answer. Many letters, phone calls, and hours of searching



finally lead to solution to this puzzle. Yes, it was true. "Bud" turned out to be W. P. Franklin son of Mason Franklin. "Belle" was Manerva Isabelle Watkins, daughter of Thomas Bryan Watkins.

Another males did in Neshoba County, "Bud" went to and fought in the Civil War. He was a member of the following groups: Co.D., 4th Mississippi Cavalry; Company G, 5th Mississippi Infantry and Company D, 6th Mississippi Infantry. It is absolutely amazing that Bud came home at all from the war. The groups he belonged to saw the hardest fighting of any units in the Civil War. To have survived this is one thing, to have survived this and remained sane is nothing short of a miracle. The 6th Mississippi Infantry was nearly completely wiped out dozens of times. Go to the library and check out the book written about the Bloody Sixth Mississippi and I assure you that you'll agree that "Bud" Franklin should have been given anything he wanted in life. I am still amazed that he survived. Another amazing fact was that when the Civil War broke out Bud was only eleven years old. Bud's father, Mason also entered into the Confederate forces. He served with Company B, 1st Mississippi Light Artillery.

\*Here are two quotes from the book about the Sixth Mississippi. They were written about the 6th at the Battle of Shilo, Tennessee.

"Again and again the Sixth Mississippi, unaided, charged the enemy's line, and it was only when the regiment had lost 300 officers and men killed and wounded, out of an aggregate of 425, that it yielded and retreated in disorder over its own dead and dying. Colonel Thornton and Major Lowery, the field officers, were both wounded. It would be useless to enlarge on the courage and devotion of the Sixth Mississippi."

"Over 300 of the regiment's number were strewn about, lying singly and in heaps in the area between the woods, creek bed and encampment. Many of the bodies were so badly mutilated that surviving friends and relatives were hard put to recognize their comrades' corpses on the field. Blood ran down the slope in rivulets while military hardware lay scattered everywhere amid the broken regiment."

It is believed that when returning home Bud went to work for John J. Cannon. When Bud was forty-two years old, he married Manerva Isabelle Watkins, daughter of Thomas Bryan Watkins.

No one really knows for sure if Belle died in the yellow fever epidemic or if for some reason she left Bud because of the hardships of farm life. Since there is no historical trace of Belle, we would prefer to think Belle died in the yellow fever epidemic. This would account for the fact that there were no records left behind. People were so worried about the disease that the dead were quickly buried and their bed clothes burned. Since so many people died, records were impossible to keep.

Sometime around 1900 Bud gave John and Cora Mae to Collie Mae Ingram Thornton. Bud along with Ella and Mace went to live with Joshua Hugh King. This was a complete puzzle to this writer as to how the Franklins could be related to the Cannons. We were eventually able to solve the Cannon part but not how Emmette and Colie got John and Cora.

Here is what we found out. Joshua Hugh King married John J. Cannon's sister, Sallie P. Cannon. This will not last and eventually Bud and Mace go to live with John J. and Fannie. Fannie, Sarah Francis Franklin, was a twin sister of William P. "Bud" Franklin. This puts Bud with his sister and Mace living with his Aunt. It was harder to solve how John and Cora came to live with Emmette and Nannie. Nannie never really got over the death of her baby sister and when these children needed a mother, she could not turn down the opportunity. That should have been enough of a reason but there is more. Raiford W. Hembree married Pearl, the daughter of John J. and Sarah F. Cannon. Raiford Hembree's daughter, Bessie, married Charlie Hugh Ingram, brother of Colie Mae Ingram Thornton. I can't figure out this exact relationship but the Franklin children had plenty of kin that is for sure. Charlie and Nannie were very close and I imagine he helped to arrange for Nannie and Emmette to take the children.

In a year of marriage, Emmette had a child of his own and suddenly had two more. It was probably just what Nannie needed. She loved kids so her dream had come true. Knowing how the Irish are, I can understand how Emmette felt. Here is a red-headed Irishman who has lost his freedom and by 1905 life with a farm and four children was just too much for him to bear. He divorced Nannie and beat a path to California to seek his fortune. To my knowledge an occasional letter would come, but never a phone call. I never talked to my Grandfather Thornton.

By the time Nannie returned to her parents with the children in 1905 in Ora, Mississippi, she had probably seen Code many times since I am sure Cora Mae and John were carried to see their father and brother at John J. Cannon's farm. Tragedy was still hanging around for Nannie. By the time she gets to Ora,



Mississippi Ella had also come to live with the Ingrams. John and Cora had left Emmette and Nannie to live at Ora. So before Nannie got there, John, Cora and Ella were living there. I imagine that did not sit well with her at all. Having to give up the children would not have been her idea. Sometime in 1905, she gets there and her mother dies of Pneumonia. Mary is brought from Ora to the homeplace in Beat 5 for burial. John Tom and Nannie went by train to Kosciusko then from there to the farm in Beat 5 by wagon. Mary (Mollie) Salter Ingram was laid to rest with her daughter Mary Caroline Ingram.

Because life had taken such a turn, Nannie sought spiritual guidance from the church and in 1905 was Baptized a member of the Ora Baptist Church.

John Tom and Mary adopt Cora Mae Franklin as their own in 1905 shortly before Mary dies. John Tom eventually married Mattie Standard and they have a son, Isaac. John Tom and Mattie finished rearing the three Franklin children. They stay on the Ingram farm until they each marry and start their own adult lives. I am absolutely certain that the Franklin children were the cause of Nannie meeting and falling in love with Monroe Code.

I have had the distinct pleasure of teaching many of the descendant's of Mace. They were truly wonderful children. It is a shame I did not know this while I was teaching. In reality, we should consider ourselves as much kin to these as any of our kin. Nannie made a great sacrifice to help rear them and there is no doubt about her love for them. Bud and Edna Jennings have moved from their home in Shell Knob, Missouri to St. Joseph, Missouri. We have become wonderful friends and I hope someday soon we might visit with each other.

This completes Nannie's story from birth through the death of Pa. From here I will pick up with the story of Nannie as a widower and how she coped with life.

We were supposed to call Nannie, Mammie. Tom and I couldn't say Mammie plainly and it came out Nannie. The rest of the family went along with this.

### **The Old Albert Rea Store**

After Pa's death (Monroe Code Cannon) Nannie was left without a place to live that was close to her children. Edgar and Cliff owned farms that joined and it was ? by the children that Nannie would see her home at the American Legion Lake and buy the old Albert Rea store which was in the middle corner of the two farms. Nannie was finally moved into the old store building to make her home. (My brother Ted said we lived in the old store for about a year between houses. I have no recollection of that.)

In 1952 my mother and father divorced which I'll write about later. This made mother the sole provider and because of that Tom and I pretty much got to go to Nannie's whenever we wanted to when school wasn't going on. Of course, that was right down our alley to have miles of territory to roam around in and have loads of time to talk to Nannie. Nannie was tall and imposing on us as children and we didn't dare say anything but "yes mam". Nannie was old and looked her years when we really started staying with her. That "old store" was the prettiest castle in all the world. It was the coldest "warmest" place in the winter or the hottest "coolest" place in the summer. Nannie had a way of making an uncomfortable place the very best place in the world. She always acted as though we had been gone too long when we came to visit and was always glad to see us. She treated all the grandchildren that way no matter how many was in the house at one time.

Anyway to be at Nannie's and have a bunch of cousins to romp with us was pure joy. Nannie still kept Pa's rule: early to bed at night and early to rise the next day. We didn't mind at all because we were usually tuckered out. There was always plenty to do. Nannie could make a biscuit about the size of a saucer and it was just right to punch a hole in and fill up with homemade jelly and there was always several kinds to choose from. By the time we got around to the bacon and eggs, we looked like stuffed pigs. Nannie always made sure the grandchildren ate regularly and have good nourishing food. Everyone enjoyed coming to her house to eat, so usually there was an extra guest or two at meal time. Nannie was not a slacker. She was always working at something. She had a vegetable garden and a flower garden. She canned, washed, cleaned and the list could go on and on. Probably one of my favorites was an endless number of scratch receipt she had for cooking desserts. Cobblers, fried pies, cakes, pies and cookies were always available. Nannie made sure there was something on the table between meals. If there wasn't, we could talk her into baking big pans



of sugar cookies. They sure were good with cold milk. The milk was whole milk taken daily from an always present milk cow. While Nannie went about her chores, we were given the run of the farm if there wasn't vegetables to help with.

Uncle Cliff left his short rolling block .22 rifle at Nannie's for us to use. Our cousin Harold also had a .22 that we could run down the road and borrow. So Tom and I always had guns and there were several local ponds we were allowed to fish in. Because there was an abundance of small game, we were always adding something to the "pot" that Nannie always enjoyed cooking.

So our lives revolved around watermelons, black berries, plums or some sort of wild game. If we grew tired of these things, we would make up games to play with our cousins. However, that was not always a good idea. For some reason one particular day found ourselves together at Uncle Edgar's barn. I think we had grown tired of the cobb war and were standing around near "Ole Blue's" stall. Ole Blue was peacefully eating some shelled corn and "breaking wind". Someone in the group suddenly came up with the idea to see if the "gas" that Ole Blue was discharging would burn. Quickly someone found a match and paper, soon a small torch was fashioned and set on fire. Everyone waited for Blue to discharge more gas and he did. When the gas met the flame, the prettiest blue flame was burning until a second or so later it met "blue's" backside. Needless to say, "Ole Blue" started kicking and snorting and finally kicked a hole in the stall wall and left. He was nothing more than a blurred streak going across the pasture. My Uncle Edgar was a man of peace, we thought! Wrong! He was peaceful until it came to his favorite mule. The commotion brought him running and soon all of us was in the barn, facing a very angry farmer. There just happened to be a plow line hanging in the barn and all of us was given a severe whipping with the plow line. To my knowledge "ole Blue" was never bothered again, nor did Uncle Edgar have to correct us again. We learned rather early in life that "Crime" doesn't pay. Our games were more mundane after that. The corn cob fight had ended at my expense. My cousin had found some rotten eggs and he "drilled" one of my cousins with one. Everyone thought that was neat and for some reason my twin, Tom, was not going to take back seat to a rotten egg. About that time, I looked out of the loft door of the barn. Tom had been saving a very wet corn cob. When he had me as a target, he zeroed in and fired hitting me dead center of the temple. I went unconscious and fell out of the loft like a shot bird. I hit the ground flat on my back and that brought me back. Out of breath, I got up dusted off and found everyone in tears from laughter. I really didn't know too much about the rest of that day until my uncle's plow line got the blood flowing good again. Such are the stories of farm life between the days of hard work.

Everyone of the children and grandchildren helped Nannie and visited her daily or when they could. There was no running water, bathroom, air conditioner or electric heat in the old store. Nannie was happy there and we were happy when we were staying there with her. She lived there until sometime in the '60s. Tom and I were off at college and when Mama thought she could no longer care for herself Nannie came to our house to live.

Nannie was the perfect grandmother to all the grandkids. She loved every single one. To my knowledge, every single one was given equal love and attention. Tom and I were the youngest of the grandchildren and because of Mom's divorce had more time to spend away from home. What we lacked in a father was more than made up for by brothers, cousins, aunts and uncles and of course, a grandmother who always had time for us.

### EDGAR PRESTON THORNTON

Edgar Preston Thornton married Betha Yates. To this union were born the following children:

1. Lois Marquerett Thornton b. 9-1-1924
2. Edna Mae Thornton b. 2-19-1928
3. Harold Jay Thornton b. 2-10-1930
4. Barbara Sue Thornton b. 8-10-1936

Uncle Edgar and Aunt Bertha build a large farm house that was one of the nicest in the Bloomo Community. The farm was complete with a large wagon shed, a blacksmith shop, a large storage building and a large barn.

I remember how hard Uncle Edgar and Aunt Bertha worked. Uncle Edgar always wore this huge straw



hat. It would shade his face and keep him a little cooler in the summer heat. He would get up before day, feed the animals, and get ready for the day's work. Then he came back inside to eat breakfast that Aunt Bertha always had ready. It was always a breakfast fit for a king. Coffee, eggs, biscuits, bacon, sausage, and jellies were the usual menu. No one ever left Aunt Bertha's table hungry. Depending on what season it was decided Uncle Edgar's days work.

Uncle Edgar planted huge fields of corn and cotton, so life on the farm was dictated by the weather and the season of the year. Land had to be broken and planted in the spring. Then it had to be plowed, hoed, and chopped. Then in the fall all of this had to be harvested.

The hardest work in the world is having to pick cotton. You put a cotton bag over your shoulder and then started picking each bowl by hand. A kid had a hard time pulling a cotton sack down a middle. After harvesting the corn and cotton in the fall, farm life slowed down a bit. Fire wood was cut and on cold frosty mornings, hogs were butchered.

Aunt Bertha worked in the fields, cooked fantastic meals, did her house work and harvested and canned all the things in the garden. Aunt Bertha always planted and worked a huge garden. Then she sewed the things the family needed. She was always working at something. There was little time to sit and rest.

Uncle Edgar's and Aunt Bertha's children were old enough that they were engaged in other activities while were were growing. Sue was the closes to Tom and me in age so we adopted her as our big sister. Both of us still consider her as our big sister rather than a cousin.

As a child I remember upsetting Aunt Bertha. We had been told not to run or play in the house. Tom and I decided that we would play chase in the hallway. Tom was chasing me and I was running for dear life and keeping an eye on him. Just about the time I looked forward I ran through the plate glass window of the door. Aunt Bertha came out screaming, thinking I had killed myself. Not even a small scratch could be found anywhere on my body. She was so relieved she didn't say a word about the glass. However, she didn't have to. Mother took care of that with a long switch.

Tom and I were always given the run of the farm. We could hunt, fish or help with the work. Thinking back we really may have visited too much, but Uncle Edgar and Aunt Bertha never complained.

Uncle Edgar and Aunt Bertha farmed all their working lives. When Uncle Edgar retired, he sold the farm and built a nice brick home on the outer edge of the farm beside Edna Mae. They raised good Christian children. All of them were raised to work hard and have made good citizens.

1. Lois is in New Orleans with her family.
2. Edna Mae and her husband built a home on part of the farm and raised their family.
3. Harold raised his family in Jackson.
4. Sue has recently moved with her family to Jackson.

## WALTER AND MARIE CROSWELL

I will write about Daddy in the section on the Croswells. Mom, is the daughter of Emmette Lafayette Thornton and Colie Mae Ingram. Mother was born in 1902 and was raised by Code Cannon after Nannie's divorce.

Mother was eighteen when she met Dad. Dad was a good bit older than Mother and I don't know what lead her to fall in love with Dad. They were married in 1920 and spent the first part of their marriage travelling. I know they went to Florida and to Oklahoma. They travelled in a Model T Ford car so it took a long time to get anywhere.

The following children were born into this marriage.

1. Walter Patrick b. 9-25-1924.
2. James Everette b. 12-02-1929
3. Ted Brice b. 02-14-1932
4. Tim b. 03-18-1940
5. Tom b. 03-18-1940

I really don't know exactly when this marriage started going bad. I will write the reasons why when I



write about Daddy. I can remember many serious incidents in the ten years of my life he was at home. The problems were so serious that Daddy was not talked about much after he left. Mother didn't go to Court when the divorce was granted. Dad deeded her the house which was still indebted.

In 1952, Mother had an eleventh grade education and had never worked a day in her life outside the home. Mother wouldn't have had a home other than the one she had if she not made some severe threats. Daddy even sold her dining room furniture once. After living in four of five homes, Mother finally got her own. This was on Highway 19 South just a few feet outside the city limits. The property was purchased from the Foster family.

In 1952 Mother had to figure out some way to support the twins. I needed glasses and was nearly blind when Mother bought my first pair of glasses. I was amazed at the things I had not seen before. I don't know how I made it to the fourth grade because I couldn't see a thing the teachers had written on the board.

Aunt Ora Crosswell Taylor taught Mother how to make women's belts. She literally made hundreds of them for fifty cents and a dollar. As time went on Mother needed more money so she started babysitting which eventually led her to care for the retarded daughter of Walter Perry. We were left alone a lot so we had to learn to cook and wash and care for the house.

Two things that I remember most in my mind about being poor. Tom and I never had many new clothes as children. The blue jeans would often have large patches and in some cases, patches on patches. The other thing was the garden. One particular spring we had English peas and corn bread three times a day. To this very day, I am not very fond of English peas. While the other children were playing, Tom and I were in the garden or cutting grass with a push mower or doing something to try to make money. Mother's clothes were not much better but Aunt Ora always passed on good clothes to help out. The uncles and aunts came through when they could with milk, butter, and other home grown foods and we finally were eating more than English peas. I'm glad all of the uncles and aunts came through because I was ready to get rid of those peas. Pat helped out by giving Mom his disability check. Joe couldn't help any! Ted and Faye bought clothes for us when they could. With all of that, we barely held things together.

Mom finally got the opportunity to be the County librarian. This helped out a lot and gave her reasonable hours, nine to five, five days a week and nine to twelve on Saturdays. Mom walked to work everyday and home again until we graduated from high school. Tom and I walked to school and back everyday for all our days in school. Mom had a better job, more money but we were still very poor. The cruelist thing of all was that for a long time our teachers treated us like we were retarded because we were poor. Tom nor I really knew how smart we were until we got to college and learned how to study. Then things started happening.

Mom made sure we were in church every Sunday and had many lectures on being good and how smart we were. Both of us have raised our children in church because of this. We were always afraid to bring poor grades home because Mother always knew about report card day.

Anyway Mother learned fast and she became a good librarian. I think she learned how important books were to a person's success. We were always reading at her insistence and by the time we graduated from high school had read the best part of the library. Even though the library demanded a lot of her time, she still was a good mom. Mother was a super cook! Everytime she had time to cook we stuffed ourselves. There just wasn't anything she couldn't cook and it was always good.

Christmas was always a big time for us. All the brothers at home and lots of good food.

I remember one time in elementary school things were so hard that Mother didn't have sixteen cents a day for us to eat school lunch. She solved that though. She packed vegetables in fruit jars and we ate lunch in the back room of the library. The library was just below the school. We participated in this ritual for several years.

When Tom and I got old enough to work, things improved. Whatever we made we gave to her with no questions asked. Mother eventually moved the library out of the log cabin into the courthouse. This meant a little more money and Pat's disability check had increased so we were eventually able to get what we needed with Mother's excellent credit.

From the ninth grade through our senior year in high school, things were very busy and life began to get easier for her. Brothers helped, relatives helped and we were able to live a little better. Tom and I were busy in high school and our grades were fairly good. Mother was busy with washing, ironing, cooking and working left her little free time. We worked at odd construction jobs in the summer and Mom used our money wisely. We had good clothes and occasionally enough for movies.



Mother worked hard and stayed at the library until 1967 when she was 65. She didn't completely quit work and stayed with older people who needed someone to care for them for several years. Around 1970 Aunt Ora came to live at Mom's house. This was primarily so that each of them would have company. Aunt Ora paid rent even though Mother wanted none. The last ten years Mother lived her life was quite good. the house had been remodeled and was pretty. She had a modest amount of money from retirement and social security. She spent her last years visiting the boys, reading and visiting with Aunt Ora.

Three of the five boys had college degrees and that made her proud as punch. All of the boys were doing well and she had seen her grandchildren come along and was always pleased about something one of them had done.

Mother had for years complained of a leg she called a "milk leg". The truth was she had Plebititis in this leg. In December of 1975 a blood clot broke loose and hit her heart. She died peacefully without pain in her sleep on December 12, 1975. She always said God would let her die this way because she didn't want anyone to have to care of her. I think God granted this one request for being a wonderful Mother. She gave her sons all the love anyone or any child could need.

### CLIFTON LAMAR AND ELIZA CANNON

To this union were born the following children:

1. Zella Merle b. 02-06-1926
2. Willis Earl b. 01-12-1928
3. Otis Lamar b. 07-23-1936
4. Patsy Lee b. 10-17-1938

Uncle Cliff's and Aunt Eliza's farm joined Uncle Edgar's on the North side. Their house was of a later design than Uncle Edgar's and had just as many out buildings. Uncle Cliff's property joined the Blooming School on the south. Both of these farm's had tennant houses for extra help.

Since Otis and Patsy were closer our age, we spent more time going to their house. Uncle Cliff and Aunt Eliza worked hard at farming and I can remember spending many doays with them in teh cotton and corn fields. I remember spending nights with them and walking up to the smell of Maxwell House Coffee brewing in the kitchen. That was heaven to us because we had to drink Louisiann chicory. That coffee was sure a wonderful smell to wake up to.

Uncle Cliff was just like Code or Pa. He was always carrying on junk with the kids. More than one time he threatened to hang us in a large oak tree in the yard. Aunt Eliza was just as bad. She always called this writer "Roster". When Uncle Cliff wasn't at home she was the prankster for the kids. It was just one happy place all the time around this house.

My mother loved all her neices and nephews especially Zella Merl. Merl came to visit my mom and dad and while there became very ill and died. As long as my mother lived she never forgot Merl. Everytime she looked at Merl's photo she would nearly cry. Merly had diabetes which doctor's knew very little about, so there was no medication. There was no way of knowing the blood sugar level of Merl and so there was no way to know that she was sick when she came. Merl went into insulin shock which is fatal without medication. Merl was a blonde with blue eyes and was a very pretty girl. Mother always felt she had done something wrong even though Uncle Cliff and Aunt Eliza didn't feel tha tway or even suggest Mother had done something wrong. Everyone in the family missed Merl especially Uncle Cliff and Aunt Eliza.

Uncle Cliff and Aunt Eliza grew tired of farming and Uncle Cliff finally decided to quit. He bought a truck and trailer and leased it to Deaton Truck lines. He will spend the remainder of his working life driving throughout the U.S. hauling freight and cattle.

Eventually, the children will grow up and move to Jackson. Uncle Cliff and Aunt Eliza will buy a beautiful home near Billy and Otis in Ridgeland, MS.

Patsy and Otis were the closest to Tom and I. Pat, Joe and Ted were closer to the other cousins because of their ages.

There is just no way to write all the stories about theses two families. We were all very, very close to each other and still remain that way today, even though we don't get to visit much.

All three of Uncle Cliff's and Aunt Eliza's children are good Christians and have worked and brought up their families in the church. They all have been very successful in the Jackson area.

Uncle Cliff and Aunt Eliza are buried in Bloomfield Cemetery.

### **BLOOMO COMMUNITY CHILD DIES SUDDENLY**

PHILADELPHIA, Miss., November 15 - Zella Merie Cannon, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Cannon of the Bloomo community, Neshoba County, died at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Walter Croswell, following a brief illness.

The child was stricken in the afternoon having apparently been in good health and died before midnight.

Funeral services were held from the Bloomfield church, with Rev. D. A. McCall officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

The child is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Cannon and two brothers, Willis Earl (Billy) and Otis Cannon. She is also survived by her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Cannon.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

In memory of little Merl, who passed away November 10, 1935.

One year of sorrow, lonely and blue,  
Oh, what we would give again to see you!  
To hear your voice and see your face,  
To clasp you gently in fond embrace.

Once our home was oh, so happy  
Till Jesus called for you one day,  
Now it is broken, we are so lonely,  
Merl, oh why could you not stay.

We know that you now are resting  
In that heavenly home so far away  
Where sickness, pain and sorrow  
Never mar the beauty of the day.

We think of you so often, little Merl,  
And miss your sweet smiling face,  
Your chair will always be vacant  
For no one ever can fill your place.

Our love for you grows stronger  
As we think of your life and care,  
And we four will live for Jesus  
Then we can met you over there.

We know that God has a reason  
For calling our loved one away,  
To His will to be submissive  
Is our prayer each passing day.

We pray our father to guide us  
In all that we do or say  
We will be with Jesus and you some day.

Written by her mother and father and grandparents.



**FRANK AND VERDA CANNON**

Frank and Verda Cannon had the following children born unto this union:

1. Guy b. 06-27-32 d. 01-21-1933
2. Roger Lee Cannon b. 01-09-1937
3. Helen Lucille Cannon b.

Uncle Frank and Aunt Verda had a farm close to Bloomfield Methodist Church. There were the usual farm buildings with a nice home on the top of a little hill about a hundred yards off the road. Uncle Frank and Aunt Verda worked very hard at farming. Children do not always understand that adults are having problems and I always thought they were happy until they separated to get their divorce. That was a real shock because I loved them both. Aunt Verda was a good Aunt and always treated us like her own children. She was an excellent cook and I enjoyed staying at their house a lot.

Uncle Frank loved whiskey. Every Friday or Saturday he always bought a gallon of moonshine whiskey. Before the weekend was over he would be riding pretty high. Knowing how Aunt Verda disapproved of this, I imagine she got to the point that she could no longer put up with Uncle Frank being drunk so much. The divorce called for their possessions to be split up so the farm was sold and Aunt Verda moved to Jackson.

Uncle Frank had many good qualities. He loved all his kin and liked to be around them. We were so accustomed to his weekend drinking that we accepted it without question. I really cared a great deal for both Uncle Frank and Aunt Verda and wish they could have stayed together.

Roger Lee (Pete) was somewhat a mystery to us. He had other friends and so we did not get to spend much time with him. He enlisted in the Marine Corp after high school and we lost touch.

Helen Lucille received part of her name from Mother. She was just about a perfect girl to hear Mother talk. Tom and I were very close to Lucille. Lucille stayed with Nannie and graduated from Bloomo High School after her mother and father divorced. This brought us into contact with her often and so we for a while had an older sister to play and roam around with.

After Frank broke the farm up he did not try to own another. He will work for various farmers in the community, spending the most of his time working for Preacher Dennis.

Uncle Frank will eventually meet and marry Marie Koonce who had two small children, David and Beverly. Aunt Marie will see about Uncle Frank's every wishes. She worked side by side with Uncle Frank and I often wondered how she had the strength to work as hard as she did.

They will have four children born to this union:

1. Anita Jo
2. Carol
3. Steve
4. Keith

These children were raised and given the best of care, even though they had a very difficult life growing up. Even though I was much older than them, I will eventually teach each one. They were sweet children and each of them made excellent grades. I sincerely enjoyed teaching them.

Both Uncle Frank and Aunt Marie will spend their lives farming and caring for cattle. Eventually Uncle Frank's alcoholic problem will claim his life. Little by little the whiskey eats away and destroys Uncle Frank's liver. He dies a very, very painful death on March 28, 1973.



## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

## RELATED FAMILY: HARDY

Mary Hardy Croswell, wife of Tim Croswell

A more complete record of the Hardy family, from which most of the background information has been taken, has previously been published.

The Hardy family traces back to 1360 to two French brothers named LeHardy who migrated to Jersey Island off the French coast. One of the descendants, Clement LeHardy had a son John who settled in the mainland of England and was the first of the Dorset Hardys. Practically all Hardys in the Southern United States descend from one of two Johns; one who settled in Virginia before 1666 and the other who settled in North Carolina in 1695. The most famous descendant of the Hardys is General Douglas MacArthur.

Mary's line is traced through an Andrew Hardy, born in North Carolina somewhere around 1790. His parents may have been Thomas and Rachel Hardy of Pitt and Edgecombe counties in North Carolina. The family Bible of Andrew is still in the possession of his great-grandson, W.E. Meeks.

**Andrew Hardy** married Sarah Barnes around 1808. They moved to Perry County, AL around 1820 and then to Noxubee County, MS in 1833, then to Kemper County, MS around 1850. He probably died shortly after this. Sarah was born around 1790, also in North Carolina. She was a charter member of the West Kemper Church at Moscow, MS. She moved to Neshoba County after Andrew's death, and she died in May of 1877 or '78. Their children as noted in the family Bible are:

1. Rachel Hardy. Born Nov 7, 1809. Married Ben Henry.
2. Noah Hardy. Born Aug 25, 1812. Married Elizabeth ? Eight children. Descendents live mostly in Northern Louisiana
3. Thomas Hardy. Born Jul 25, 1814. Said to have moved to Louisiana. NFI.
4. Absolom Hardy. Born Jan 2, 1817. Married(1) Cintha Thigpen. Four children. Married(2) Sarah Conerly. Three children. Married(3) Melissa Conerly. Three children.
5. Beeman Hardy. Born Jul 3, 1819. Last of this family born in North Carolina. Married(1) Frances Jane Bishop Dec 22, 1941. Four children. Married(2) Susan Crenshaw Bounds Sep 8, 1853 after Frances died. Eight children. He died Mar 10, 1896, buried West Kemper, MS. His family Bible is in possession of Mrs. H.L. Abercrombie of Mobile, AL.
6. Martha Hardy. Born Dec 4, 1821, in Perry County, AL. Never married. Lived with brother Andrew after parents died.
7. Mary Hardy. Born Aug 20, 1825, in Perry County, AL. Never married. Lived with brother Andrew after parents died.
8. John Curtis Hardy. See below.
9. Andrew Jackson Hardy. Born Jan 17, 1831. Known as "Jack". Millwright by trade. Lived in Kemper and Neshoba counties in Mississippi. Married Elizabeth Jones. They had one daughter Annie. Andrew died Jun 22, 1909.

**John Curtis Hardy.** Born February 17, 1829 in Alabama. In his application for Confederate pension dated 1902, he stated he had lived in Mississippi for 69 years, had enlisted in Kemper County in 1862, and was as of 1902 a resident of Blinks in Neshoba County, MS. He died March 26, 1907. Married Mary D. Swearingen. Nine children.

**Martha A. Hardy.** Born Sep 19, 1857. Married \_\_\_\_\_ Meeks.

**Thomas Absolom Hardy.** Born Nov 1, 1853. Married S.E. Strum. Died Apr 11, 1940.

**William W. Hardy.** Born Aug 11, 1860. Married Nancy Winsted. Died Nov 7, 1928.

**James J. Hardy.** Born Sep 3, 1862.

**Sarah E. Hardy.** Born Jul 1, 1865.

**Lewis E. Hardy.** Born Sep 17, 1866.

**John A. Hardy.** See below.

**Morgan Unicker Hardy.** Born Dec 25, 1870.

**Mary E. Hardy.** Born Feb 10, 1873. Married James C. Moore. Living Philadelphia, MS, Route 4.



**John A. Hardy.** Born Dec 27, 1868. Married Dec 28, 1893 to Annie L. Sharp (b. 12/4/1874, d. 6/20/1937). He was a community worker, she a housewife. He died Jun 9, 1954. Seven children.

**Virgil Leon Hardy.** Born Sep 12, 1894.

**John Davis Hardy.** See below.

**Fannie Delilah Hardy.** Born Jul 16, 1899. She never married, took care of her father until she died, Dec 29, 1952.

**Annie Elizabeth Hardy.** See below.

**Emma Lokie Hardy.** See below.

**Mary Virgie Hardy.** See below.

**Willie Banks Hardy.** See below.

**John Davis Hardy.** Born Oct 1, 1896. Married(1) Jan 25, 1919 to Lonie Mae Winstead (b. 6/21/1900, d. 6/1/1923). Two children. Married(2) Feb 18, 1925 to Frances Cleveland Culberson (b. 10/3/1895, d. 11/12/1964). Nine children. Married(3) Jul 17, 1966 to Pearl Croswell Sharp (b. 7/8/1900, d. 1964). Her funeral was 11/13/1964. J.D. served in the US Army from Sep 5, 1918 to Dec 24, 1918 as a PVT.

**Nina Ruth Hardy.** Born Nov 1, 1919.

**Andrew Curtis Hardy.** Born Apr 20, 1922. Married Aug 10, 1945 to Clara M. Killen (b. 2/27/1927). Two children.

**Mary Charlotte Hardy.** Born May 23, 1946. Married Apr 16, 1966 to Tim Croswell (b. 3/18/1940). Tim has an undergraduate degree from The University of Southern Mississippi, and a double Master's degree from Mississippi State University. He has further write-up in the main section of Elijah Croswell's descendents. Three children.

**Patrick Timothy Croswell.** Born 10/30/1968.

**Kimberly Susanne Croswell.** Born 1/16/1970.

**Andrea Michell Croswell.** Born 1/10/1973.

**David Ray "Sonny" Hardy.** Born Aug 11, 1950. Married Dec 22, 1972 to Glinda Fay Robinson (b. 4/26/1949).

**Infant son.** Born and died Nov 11, 1925.

**Morgan Davis Hardy.** Born Sep 11, 1926. Married May 21, 1948 to Mary Alice Sharp (b. 10/9/1924). Three children.

**Mary Elaine Hardy.** Born Mar 13, 1949. Married Dec 21, 1968 to James Willard Gray (b. 11/6/1948). One child.

**Jeffrey Ryan Gray.** Born 1/18/1974.

**Janice Ann Hardy.** Born Aug 5, 1951. Married Feb 16, 1973 to Jimmy Banks Smith (b. 8/19/1947). Two children.

**Jimmy Dale Smith.** Born 10/11/1973.

**Jamie Nichole Smith.** Born 11/8/1976.

**Ronald Morgan Hardy.** Born Aug 18, 1955. Married(1) Jun 8, 1974 to Sandra Luke. One child. Married(2) Aletha Quinn.

**Rhonda Michelle Hardy.** Born 1/5/1975.

**Elna Frances Hardy.** Born Nov 17, 1927. Married Nov 18, 1949 to James Elvin McNeece, Sr. They lived in Jackson, MS from Nov 1949 to Feb 1952. Elvin entered the US Army then and served until Feb 1954. They then moved to Meridian, MS, where they have lived until the present date. Three children.

**Cheryel Dean McNeece.** Born Oct 28, 1954.

**James Elvin McNeece, Jr.** Born Dec 30, 1955.

**Frances Arlene McNeece.** Born Jul 5, 1961. Died Jul 8, 1961.

**Oren J. Hardy.** Born Feb 22, 1929. Entered the US Air Force in 1949 and served 3 years, then continued in the National Guard until 1960 when he was discharged as Engineer C2121 Air Transport. Married Bobby Flint in 1965 who had four children from a previous marriage. These children were adopted by Oren. The family resides Philadelphia, MS, Route 4.

**Travis Flint Hardy.**

**Sharon Flint Hardy.**

**Gregg Flint Hardy.**



Mike Flint Hardy.

Clara Annie Hardy. Born Dec 12, 1930. Married Henry Dedeaux of Gulfport, MS. Clara is a housewife and school teacher in Gulfport. One son.

Ricky Dedeaux. Born Feb, 1962.

Mary Alice Hardy. Born Feb 2, 1936. Married(1) May 2, 1953 to Jack B. Rowell (b. 9/17/1934). Two daughters. Married(2) May 8, 1971 to Robert Hays White. Two children.

Judy Ann Rowell. Born Mar 27, 1954.

Mary Katherine Rowell. Born and died Dec 10, 1960.

Rebecca Ann White. Born Dec 22, 1971.

Robert Christopher White. Born May 28, 1976.

Hazel Arlene Hardy. Born Dec 29, 1933. Died Jan 6, 1934.

Infant son. Born and died Aug 1, 1937.

Dorothy Sue Hardy. Born Feb 22, 1939. Married Feb 16, 1973 to Ellis Harwell (b. 2/29/1938). Sue is a secretary for and insurance company in Gulfport, MS, and Ellis is a bridge foreman with Louisiana and Nashville Railroad.

Annie Elizabeth Hardy. Born Nov 17, 1905. Married Algie Alexander Conn on Dec 4, 1921. They made their home in Neshoba County, MS and were members of Beat Line Baptist Church. She died Dec 25, 1970, buried Bethsadia Cemetery.

Edward Clayton Conn. Born Aug 10, 1923. Died Jul 15, 1926. Buried Bethsadia Cemetery.

Burnice Elizabeth Conn. Born Mar 15, 1926. Married T.J. Carter. Two children.

Vernon J. Carter. Born Jan 5, 1948. Married Linda Phillips. Two children.

Randy Dean Carter. Born 9/2/1974.

Russel Thad Carter. Born 11/6/1976.

Patsy Jean Carter. Born Mar 23, 1951. Married Charles Bryn. They live in Philadelphia, MS.

Bonnie Kate Conn. Born Jun 23, 1929. Married Garcia Morgan Pierce on Jul 22, 1947. Live in Neshoba County, MS. Members of Beat Line Baptist Church. Two children.

Billy Wayne Pierce. Born Sep 7, 1948. Married Betty Lucille White on May 25, 1968. One son.

Justin Wayne Pierce. Born 4/8/1976.

Janice Lynne Pierce. Born Jan 20, 1960.

Algie Harston Conn. Born Jan 5, 1931 in Neshoba Co. Married Martha Ann Chunn. Deacon, Beat Line Baptist. Three children.

Barbara Ann Conn. Born Jul 16, 1951. Married Roe Thomas Castle. Live in Jackson, MS. One child.

Infant child. Born and died Jun 3, 1976.

Bobby Mitchell Conn. Born Jul 7, 1955. Married Alisia Spears. Live in Philadelphia, MS. Two Daughters.

Wendy Sheree Conn. Born Feb 16, 1975.

Angelia Dawn Conn. Born Sep, 1976.

Royce Dale Conn. Born Sep 3, 1958. Lives at home, employed by U.S. Motors in Philadelphia.

Emma Lokie Hardy. Born Jul 1, 1903. Married Walter E. Kilpatrick (b. 8/19/1896, d. 1969). She died Jun 20, 1937. Eight Children.

Helen Kilpatrick. Born Sep 10, 1919. Married Bernard Hardy.

Inez Kilpatrick. Born Jun 25, 1922. Married(1) Elmer Hardy (now deceased). Married(2) Leonard Duncan.

Adell Kilpatrick. Born May 25, 1924. Married Wilbur Clark.

Hollis Kilpatrick. Born Oct 8, 1926. Married Nina Hampton.

Kenneth Kilpatrick. Born Sep 23, 1928. Married Gladys Wheeler.

John "Joe" Kilpatrick. Born 20, 1930. Married Cubia Mathis.

Charles Kilpatrick. Born May 19, 1933. Married Mildred Hardy.

Royce Kilpatrick. Born Aug 29, 1944. Married Colene Breland.



**Helen's** children: Dorothy Rainey, Joe Hardy, Jean Veasley, Betty Goodwin, Ruby Hardy, Gail Hardy.  
Grandchildren: Joey Goodwin, Walt Rainey, Lesia Rainey, Suzzane Rainey.

**Inez's** children: Edwin Hardy, annette Duncan, Patti Lee, Lucy Duncan, James Lenord Duncan Jr., Johnny Duncan, Chris Duncan, Melsia Duncan. Grandchildren: Tim Hardy, Karen Hardy, Christie Lee.

**Adell's** children: Brenda Fortenberry, Nell Rakestraw, Carolyn Billingsley, Kathy Wooten.  
Grandchildren: Patrick Fortenberry, Greg Fortenberry, Jamie Billingsley, Johnny Billingsley, Dewayne Rakestraw, Brian Wooten.

**Kenneth's** children: Mike Kilpatrick, Jerry Kilpatrick, Lynn Pierce, Talmage Kilpatrick. Grandchildren: Shane Kilpatrick, Dana Pierce.

**Joe's** children: Johnice Hicks, William J. "Bubby" Kilpatrick, Judy Kilpatrick, Diane Kilpatrick.  
Grandchildren: John Hicks.

**Hollis'** children: Walter Kilpatrick, Tom Kilpatrick. Grandchildren: Amy Kilpatrick, Suzzane Kilpatrick, Tammie Ann Kilpatrick.

**Charles'** children: Jimmy Kilpatrick, Billy Kilpatrick, Bob Kilpatrick, Clyde Kilpatrick, Cindy Kilpatrick.

**Royce's** children: Chad Kilpatrick, Brad Kilpatrick.

**Virgie Mary Hardy.** Born Aug 29, 1908. Married 1937 to Ethel Winsted (b. 1911). She died 1973. Four children.

**Twin infant.** Born and died 1938.

**Twin infant.** Born and died 1938.

**Infant son.** Born and died 1941.

**Carrol Winstead.** Born 1942. Married Mary Brown in 1957. He served two years in the Army. Lives Route 9, Philadelphia, MS.

**Nita Winstead.** Born 1958.

**June Winstead.** Born 1959.

**William Banks Hardy.** Born Feb 23, 1912. Married(1) Nov 9, 1935 to Iva Mae Smith (d. 3/17/1972). Three children. Married(2) Mamie Lee (Slaughter) Evans on Jul 31, 1974. She died Feb 21, 1977. No children.

**Jacqueline Hardy.** Born Aug 7, 1936. Married Allen Hendrix on May 21, 1955. He joined the Army in 1952 and served two years. Continues as member of the National Guard. Three children.

**Jeffrey Alan Hendrix.** Born 1/5/1957.

**Annette Hendrix.** Born 10/3/1959.

**Amy Hendrix.** Born 11/28/1962.

**Jerome Hardy.** Born Dec 27, 1939. Married Margaret Moorehead, May 17, 1958. He is a stockman and deacon at Beat Line Baptist Church. She is a teacher. Two children.

**Janet Hardy.** Born 9/16/1960.

**Linda Hardy.** Born 12/6/1964.

**Glenda Hardy.** Born Feb 28, 1944. Presently single.



## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

# ALLIED FAMILY: SALTER

## NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Growing up poor in my youth limited the travel that I could do. Because of this I was able to visit only within my immediate family. I did not become acquainted with many of the Salters until I was out on my own in life. After my brother and I graduated from college, I began to actively research my kin and so met many of the Salters who have become close friends.

The earliest Salters that I became acquainted with were the following:

1. Roger, who visited Nannie regularly.
2. Lamar and wife Katie Belle Salter. Lamar was Administrator of the Neshoba County Hospital and always helped family members when they were sick. Katie Belle was my high school English teacher. She commanded and received the respect of everyone. Out of all the grammar teachers I have had in high school and college, she rates as the best. Katie Belle was a friend and master teacher in every sense of the word.
3. Mavis Salter Tingle has been a friend for many, many years. She worked with mother several years as Assistant Librarian before Mother retired.
4. Claude John Salter was our number one basketball supporter in high school. He was always there to cheer the team on to victory. To my knowledge, he never missed one of our games.
5. Stanley Claude Salter has been a friend from high school and still remains that way. He is a good friend that would take a whole book to write about.

In 1966 one of my inquiries lead me to receive the following letter from Ammye Ougts.

"Dear Tim:

Hope I can explain to you enough that your Grandmother can give you the full history of the family's.

John Salter Sr. and Molly Slater were brother and sister. Your grandmother and Robert Salter (Robert Burkes' great grandfather) were first cousins or you could say Robert Burkes' great, great grandfather and your great, great grandmother were brother and sister. Robert's grandmother was Ammye Salter. The only child of Robert Salter, who married Alvin Ougts, Robert's grandfather. Then their only child Romma June Oughts (Robert's mother) married Winford Burkes.

Also, the Marvin White family, Vernon and Lamar Gamblin, Mrs. Charlie Thompson, and the Lamar Salter family are grandchildren of the late John Salter Sr.

When you go home have your mother and grandmother to bring you out to visit us. We would enjoy having each of you. And we wish to congratulate you on your engagement and approaching marriage, and hope the both of you a long and happy life.

Yours truly,  
(Robert's Grandmother)  
Ammye Ougts"

In 1975, after Mother had passed away, I found the following letter in her personal papers. The letter had not been answered!

"Salter -- Cummins/Cummens/Cummings

This inquiry is being sent to you in the hope that you may be able to assist me with information on the Salter/Cummins family history. For sometime I have been compiling as much of a family history as possible and hope that you will have some knowledge that will help. This is a very interesting project and I value each bit of assistance.

Samuel Salter M. CA 1800 GA Mary (Polly) Cummens  
 b. Circa 1782 NC b. 1779 NC  
 d. Circa 1834 ALA d. 1842 GA

HAD: William Washington Salter b. 1803 m. Mary Edna Lee  
 Eli Salter b. 1805 m. Susan Wood  
 Watkins Salter b. 1805 m. Miss Ray 2nd Sarah J. Walton  
 Samuel Cresswell Salter b. 1807 d. 1834  
 David Michael Salter b. 1809 m. Mary Ann Huff  
 Martha Salter b. 1810 m. 1st Alsay H. Lee 2nd William H. Glover  
 Nancy Garlington Salter b. 1813 GA m. John "Pealicker" Johnson  
 John G. Salter  
 Thomas H. Salter  
 Eliza C. Salter m. 1835 Edward Cannon Betts

Was Samuel Salter a son of James Salter 1775 NC/d. 1834 ALA? Who was his mother? James Salter b. 1775 NC went to Georgia then Conecuh Co. Alabama by 1815. Samuel also was in Conecuh Co., ALA by 1815 and later in Wilcox Co., Alabama. Who were the parents of Mary Cummens? Were Eleazer Cummins, surveyor 1757/1810-11 and Isabella Creswell 1759/d after 1832.

I am a direct descendent of these lines and any assistance in establishing real ancestors would be helpful. I am also interested in compiling a listing of all descendants possible. Any assistance at all will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
 Mrs. Gertrude J. Stephens  
 2 Lee Circle  
 Spanish Fort, Ala. 36527"

I did not answer Gertrude's letter until March of 1975. Through corresponding with her, we have become very good friends. Little by little we were able to piece together a fairly complete story of the Salter family.

The first break came when I remembered that I was in possession of John Tom Ingram's and Mary (Mollie) Salter Ingram's Bible. In the middle of the Bible the family sheet states that John Tom Ingram and Mary Salter were married in the home of D. M. Salter the 21st day of December 1875. From this we determined that Mary was the daughter of David Michael Salter and Mary Ann Huff Salter. David Michael Salter is the son of Samuel Salter b. 1782 in North Carolina and Mary (Polly) Cummins b. 1779 in North Carolina. We believe Samuel was the son of James who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Since that beginning in 1977, we have solved the story of Mary Salter Ingram and have since accumulated hundreds of pages of information on other Salter families. I will include some of the other Salter families in this writing. If the information you seek is not in this book, please contact this writer as I may have the information you seek in my files.

John Tom Ingram and Mary (Mollie) Salter made their home in Beat 5 of Neshoba County. John Tom and Mary with the help of slave labor builds a two story home. The home was one of the nicest in the area at the time it was built.

The family sheet of their Bible has the following information:

1. John Tom Ingram was born in Neshoba County, Mississippi, 13 March 1853.
2. Mary Ingram was born in Wilcox County, Alabama, 10 March 1841.
3. Charlie Hugh Ingram was born in Neshoba County, Mississippi, 5 January 1881.
4. Colie May Ingram was born in Neshoba County, Mississippi, 11 September 1882.
5. Mary Caroline was born in Neshoba County, Mississippi, 13 May 1884.

From the Bible we can determine that Mary was thirty-four years old when she married and forty years old when her first child was born.

In going through Nannie's house when all the children were through dividing things up, I found a small box with photos and letters in it. For some reason, no one wanted the box or content and so it pretty much was discarded. I picked up the box with a few discarded dishes and put them in my car. The little box



proved to be very valuable. In the box were letter from Mary Ingram to her daughter, Colie Mae Ingram Thornton Cannon (Nannie). From these letters, we get an insight into how Mary felt in her last years of life and an idea of how life on the farm was. The letters also prove that the Franklin children were living with her. She mentions three of the children by name. There is also a little information on neighbors and how the weather was during the time.

I do not know how much schooling Mary had. She spells her words by sound and so many of her words are misspelled. She does not write her letters in story-form or paragraph form, but rather she simply wrote thoughts down as they came to her. The first letter I have is on a scrap of parchment like paper. It is a one page letter that is written on both sides of this scrap of paper. It is not dated. I have numbered each thought and corrected some of the spelling so that the reader can grasp each thought. I have not changed any wording so each thought can be read as Mary wrote them. Each of Mary's letters are included here and they are entered by the date on which they were written.

1. I will be sure to save some of everything I get.
2. Cora wants it all saved till you come.
3. Well Colie this is Tuesday.
4. I will try to find my letter
5. Your Pa arm is a little better this morning
6. He is walking about in the fields now
7. Your Pa has been ailing all the year complaining with his neck and legs.
8. I feel about the same.
9. I would be glad if I could I could say I felt well.
10. Colie you wrote like you didn't get my letter.
11. I don't know what is the cause for I well know I write every Tuesday a I never fail.
12. You can't say we don't write once a week even if you don't get them.
13. Charlie says tell you he won't write nothing this time.
14. That I could tell all that he would have to write my....

1. .... looks very well
2. Colie we will have some fruit this year.
3. It still falling off but I think it is nearly quit.
4. The plums is not getting ripe yet.
5. They have got a heap of work to do.
6. They have never commence to chopping Cotton yet.
7. We would be glad to see rain now.
8. It is getting dry.
9. Colie, I hurt so bad I will quit.
10. I hope you will come this summer.
11. The days is long and lonesome to me.
12. Read what you can and guess at the rest.
13. It is the best I can do.

Molie Ingram

1. Colie be sure to write I was looking for a letter this evening.
2. Good by my dear Colie, how I want to see you.

1903  
Fuskey, Ms.  
JAN the 24

Dear Colie,

1. I will try to write you a few lines to let you hear from us all.
2. This leaves us all well as common.
3. I am better than I was when you left.
4. I have not had nary spell like I did Sunday.
5. I have got a mighty bad cold.
6. My foot is better.
7. It is cold and Cloudy here, this morning.
8. Well Colie this has bin one

1. Long lonesome week with me.
2. Cleame come to see me that day you left.
3. Mattie is not gone home yet.
4. I think from what Clem says it is a sure case with her and RAS.
5. If she don't get him she has hurt herself up here.
6. Colie I have not got much to this time.
7. I will try to write more the next time.
8. I want you to write how you are satisfied and write often.

\*Note

RAS - Riley Salter

Mattie - Mattie Smith - They lost all their children to T.B.

1. Time will seem long to me.
2. Cora talk a heap about the baby.
3. I felt so bad ever since you left.
4. I haven't done nothing but make Eler and Cora aprons.
5. I haven't felt like doing nothing.
6. I hope I will get a letter from you Tuesday.
7. Well Colie as I have nothing new to write I will close for this time.
8. Good Bye Colie

Molie Ingram

1903  
Ora, Miss  
Feb The 4

Dear Colie

1. I will try to write you a few lines to let you hear from me.
2. I know you think long hearing from us but I can't help it.
3. Your Pa and Charlie started to Meridian last Friday.
4. Charlie sed for me to be sure to write the next day.
5. But I was so sick at my stomach I could not get up.
6. This leaves us all up and that is all.
7. I am just about the same old thing.

1. I hurt all the time.
2. My foot is still bad.
3. Your Pa carried me to Pery before he left home to see if he could do anything.
4. He gave me something to keep it wet.
5. I think it is a little better now.
6. I have never been so I could not put a shoe on.
7. Well Colie, I have had a rough time since your Pa left.
8. Cora was right sick when they left but I thought it was a bad cold.
9. She had a chill

1. The mail Rider has fail to come.
2. I reckon he will come tomorrow.
3. I got your letter last Tuesday.
4. I was glad to hear from you and thought if the mail rider had of come I would get one today.
5. I am uneasy for Pa.
6. The river gets up before your Pa and Charlie gets back.
7. I will look for them Friday.
8. Willie Ingram stays with me every night.
9. Well Colie is tiddy getting better.

\*Note

Willie is William Ingram - John Thomas brother.

1. About evening I get worse
2. It is getting time to look for you to come.
3. And when I think it is so far from you sometimes I think it is more than I can stand.
4. My children is all that I care for and I think it is hard in my last and afflicted days that I can't get to see them.
5. As for pleasure I never expect this side of the grave.
6. My children was my pleasure.
7. Charlie has stayed

7. ... at home every Sunday since you left.
1. I can look and see your saddle and riding coat.
2. It look so much like you.
3. The poor little bogs caps has bin in the window ever since you left.
4. I can nearly see her when I see it.
5. Well Colie this is Wednesday.
6. The mail rider is past
7. I will finish my letter
8. Cora is still better.
9. I feel a little better myself.
10. We had a blustery night but it is cold and fair this morning.
11. I sent 34 chickens of ..... with your and mine and kept 14.

1. I have got some mighty pretty skirt patterns for Eler and Cora, from Clem.
2. They are good.
3. They ain't no gathers at the waist.
4. Just a few in the back.
5. I have not made Eler's dress yet.
6. I have not felt like nothing.
7. Well Mattie is gone home at last.
8. Ras. nd Emmer carried her home.
9. Emmer is still down there.
10. I think it is a sure case.
11. Colie I will try to get a letter off to you next Tuesday.

1. I want you to write often.
2. I beg you to take care of yourself
3. \*John is going to school.
4. Well Colie I have written all that I can think of.
5. My writing is bad.
6. Read what you can if it is the best I can do.
7. Dear Colie Kiss Edgar and that sweet baby for me.

Molie Ingram

8. I hope I will get a letter this evening.

\*John Wesley Franklin



March The 3rd  
Ora, Miss.

Dear Colie

- 1.I will try to write a few lines.
- 2.This leaves us all up.
- 3.I am a little better but can't put my shoe on yet.
- 4.I got your letter Sunday.
- 5.Was glad to hear from you.
- 6.But sorry to hear you and the baby was still sick.
- 7.I though maybe it was warmer there and your health would be better.
- 8.But it don't look like it yet.
- 9.I am uneasy all the time about you.
- 10.You are never off my mind
- 11.I hope it is nothing bad wrong with the baby.

- 1.But it is teething.
- 2.That is bad enough.
- 3>Your Pa got back last night from Kosciusko.
- 4.He started Wednesday.
- 5.And never got back until Sunday night on Account of Rain, bad roads.
- 6.I never saw so much rain in my life.
- 7.And cold weather.
- 8.It is so cold we have a big fire all the time.
- 9.It has not turn much warmer since the cold spell come three week ago.
- 10.The ice lasted ten days one the North side.
- 11.In the tubs it looks like would freeze.
- 12.Colie, Miss Sallie and Bettie Hill came last Saturday and spent the evening.
- 13.I sure think a heap of Miss Sallie.
- 14.She said she would of come home with John Tom night.
- 15.But I was crippled and it would cause me to worry around more.
- 16.When she got up to start home she said she had enjoyed the evening and wish she could stay longer.
- 17.But was looking for them to come after her to go home.

- 1.The next morning she talked a heap about you and how she liked you.
- 2.I have not made a start about a garden yet.
- 3.It is so cold I have not got one hen setting yet.
- 4.I don't know what is the cause that they won't go to setting.
- 5.I always have a lot of little chicks by this time.
- 6.But I feel so bad I am not fretting much.
- 7.Old Man Bell is never no better.

- 8.---- went to Ora and says he never will.
- 9.They have never had no more fussing.

- 1.He says she never shall have a bed nor anything else.
- 2.It looks hard.
- 3.I have never seen Tom working since he married.
- 4.Cora says tell you that she hs got some red shoes.
- 5>Your Pa gave one dollar and ten cents for them.
- 6.They are fine and nice but I don't like red shoes.
7. He didn't get Eler any
8. He forgot to take her measure.
9. Colie you wanted to know if they got any goods.
10. They got some.
11. They haven't sold a big site yet but
1. More than I expected.
2. Snuff, tobacco goes faster than anything else.
3. Mr. Edwards was hear to day after Coffee and tobacco.
4. Says Mrs. Ed was mighty feeble been going down every since.
5. Almer died Tuesday evening.
6. Well Colie I will try to find my letter.
7. I feel a little better than I did yesterday.
8. Colie you said you had a good way to go.
9. I want you to quit studying so much about me and go on
1. but when you get the chance.
2. I hope the time will come when we can go together.
3. The days is getting so long.
4. It seems like I get lonesome everyday.
5. If I could work I could pass the time off better.
6. If there has been any improvement in Eler I can say to you I can't see it.
7. It is the same old thing everyday.
8. To tell just like she had just got hear.
9. Eat and sleep is all that she cares for.
1. Colie it is all most time for a mail rider.
2. Tell me if you have name the baby.
3. I will quit for this time.
4. Good Bye Dear Colie.
5. How glad I would be to see you this evening.

- Molie Ingram
6. How is Emmette satisfied.

In the letters that are on the preceding pages, we find that Mary's thoughts are not much different from a Mom today. She worries about her husband, her children, grandchild, the weather and the work on the farm. In 1903 Mary would have been sixty-two years old. Colie Mae (Nannie) would have been twenty-one years old. The baby Mary is talking about is Marie Thornton, who would not have been a year old. I am very glad these letters survived so that we can get an insight into our great-grandmother. I wish more of them could have been found in the box.

Mary suffered from Rheumatoid arthritis, which made writing very difficult and painful for her. She

was not physically able to work in her last years and I am sure that did make time past slowly for her. She tried to cook and sew for her adopted children. They probably kept her moving enough to keep the arthritis from confining her to bed.

Mary will die in 1905 of Pneumonia at Ora, Mississippi. John Tom and Nannie will bring her back to the old home place for burial. At last she returns to the place she loved the most. She is buried beside Mary Caroline who died very young.

I will write a family chart out next so that the kindred relationship can be easily seen.

**James Salter** b. 1755, N.C., was the father of:

**Samuel Salter** b. 1782, N.C., was the father of:

**David Michael Salter** b. 1802 was the father of:

**Mary (Mollie) Salter** b. 1841, AL, who married John Tom Ingram (b. 1853, MS) who was the father of:

**Colie Mae Ingram** b. 1882 who married: **Emmette LaFayette Thornton** who was the father of:

**Edgar Preston Thornton & Helen Marie Thornton**

& married: **Monroe Code Cannon** who was the father of:

**Clifton Lamar Cannon & Frank Cannon**

In closing this part of my book I will write from my notes what we have learned about the Salter family.

#### NOTES FROM THE BIBLE OF MISS POLLY COMENS, 1795:

- Mrs. R.M. Edmondson Died July 9, 1892
- Mr. W.W. Salter Died February 27, 1890.
- Samuel Salter was born \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of Our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ (From his grave stone, we know this to be 1782)
- Polly Salter was born on the Seventh day of October, 1779.
- William, the son of Samuel and Polly Salter was born on \_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 1803.
- W.W. Salter was born September \_\_\_\_\_, 1803 and died February 27, 1890.
- Robert E. Edmondson died July 9, 1892.
- Mrs. Robert M. died July 9, 1892.
- Eli and Watkins Twin Sons of said Samuel and Polly Salter were born on the Twenty Seventh Day of September 1805.
- David Michael Salter was born December 4th Day in the year of Our Lord 1809.
- Samuel Cresswell Salter, son of said Samuel and Polly Salter. His wife was born November 24th Day AD 1807, Tuesday.
- Nancy Garlington Salter was born Monday April 24, 1812.
- Martha Salter was born August 7, 1810.

#### NOTES RECEIVED FROM EMMA LANE SALTER

- David Michael Salter and Mary (Huff) Salter came to Mississippi from Bismarck, Alabama in 1850.
- David Michael Salter born in 1838. (This is David Michael Salter, Jr.)
- John Henry Salter born in 1848.
- Eli Salter b. \_\_\_\_\_. Eli was killed in the Civil War.
- Nancy Salter b. \_\_\_\_\_ married Jack Coghlan.
- Mattie Salter b. 1847 married Isaac (Ike) Crosby b. 1846.
- Martha Salter married J.L. Gray.
- Mary Salter marry Tom Ingram.
- All the children raised their families in Neshoba County, Mississippi except Martha and Mattie.
- Martha had two sons. The family lived at Yazoo City or Canton. She dies there.
- Mattie raised her children at Lake, Mississippi. The last member of this family died in 1934.



As a child of seven years of age, I Emma (Lane) Salter came to know the Salter family as neighbors in 1896. I knew only the sons. The girls had married and left the home site. This is the David Michael Salter, Jr. family:

1. Tom Salter married Trudie Eakes and moved to Purvis, Mississippi and raised a big family.
2. Riley Salter married Mattie Smith. They lost all their children with T.B.
3. Charlie Salter married Ema Thornton and raised a big family in South Mississippi. (Ema and Emmette Lafayette were brother and sister.)
4. Edd was feeble minded and never minded.
5. Truman married Marcella Blount. They had no children.
6. Sudie Salter married Elliott Willis and raised a big family in the Oak Grove community and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.
7. Gene Salter married Jr. Pool and lived and died in Canton, Mississippi. They had no children.

John Claude Salter (b. 11/26/1888, d. Jun 1969), son of John Henry Salter and Francis Addline (Webb) Salter and Emma Etta Lane (b. 6/6/1889, d. 1991), daughter of Ezra Bernard Lane and Sapharnie Ann (Tew) Lane were married December 24, 1908 by Justice of Peace Joseph William Thornton. Children of this union were:

1. **Leo Wilson Salter** b. 11-29-1913
2. **Ira Lanelle Salter** b. 08-07-1922
3. **Claude John Salter** b. 11-03-1925
4. **Mavis Irene Salter** b. 04-10-1928
5. **Eunice Lugene Salter** b. 03-05-1933

Further Information determined: Ancestry of John Claude Salter

**JOHN HENRY SALTER 12-25-1848**  
**FRANCIS ADLINE (WEBB) SALTER 12-03-1849**

Their children:

1. **Robert Edgar Salter** b. 09-27-1870 married Sudie Lampkin
2. **Sue Emma Salter** b. 08-26-1872 married Jerry Lampkin
3. **James Albert Salter** b. 11-12-1874 married: 1) Vergie Walker and 2) Ollie Walker
4. **Rosie Lee Salter** b. 03-03-1879 married Ira White
5. **Henry Clay Salter** b. 06-28-1881 married Stella White
6. **Alma Lydia Salter** b. 10-15-1883 married Doss Fleming
7. **Baron Clay Salter** b. 06-26-1885 married Budget Wood
8. **John Claude Salter** b. 11-20-1888 married Emma Lane
9. **Effie Lettie Salter** b. 11-23-1890 married Jeff Gamblin

Some descendant of John Claude Salter

**Leo Wilson Salter.** Birth recorded as Dec 5, 1913, but actual is Nov 29, 1913. Married Aug 17, 1946 to Alline Haskins (b. 7/17/1922). Her parents: Luther M. Haskins (b. 12/9/1880) and Octavia Bell Cherry Haskins (b. 4/30/1898). Leo died Oct 24, 1989.

**Sidney Leo Salter.** Born Jan 16, 1959. Married Paula Dent Jones (b. 9/3/1959).

**Kathryn Brantley Salter.** Born Jan 12, 1986.

**Sheila Salter.** Born Jan 16, 1959. Married David Comfort Klimetz (b. 3/16/1957).

**Hanna Claire Klimetz.** Born Apr 9, 1987.

**Rachael Marie Klimetz.** Born Oct 11, 1989.

**Sharon Salter.** Born Jan 27, 1957. Married Nov 17, 1979 to Donald Clifton Pratt (b. 1/25/1953). His parents Ellis Clifton Pratt (b. 3/9/1924, d. 6/25/1984) & Myrtle Elizabeth Null Pratt (b. 1/2/1924).

**Brandon Christopher Pratt.** Born Aug 15, 1983.

## 1850 NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI CENSUS

**HOUSEHOLD 75****WILLIAM WASHINGTON SALTER, AGE 46****WIFE EDNA (LEE) SALTER, AGE 44**

Children:

1. **Samuel**, age 23
2. **Nancy**, age 16
3. **Josephine**, age 14
4. **John**, age 12
5. **David**, age 8
6. **Edna**, age 6
7. **Roxanna**, age 4
8. **Joseph Henry**, age 19

\* William Washington was the only Salter living in Neshoba County, Mississippi prior to the 1850 Census. David Michael Salter, Sr. has not made it yet. Several of the children will be married and gone by the time he arrives.

**Household #78:**

Joel Lee age 34

William age 11

James age 09

(Living next door to William Washington Salter)

- Joel Lee 1816-1861 married first June Atkinson and second Catherine Louise Jane Coghlan Bondsmen. Joel Lee and Samuel A. Saulter, Mary Edna Lee.
- Mary Edna Lee 1806-1855 married William Washington Salter
- James Lafayette Lee was born November 27, 1860 near Plattsburg, the son of William Henry and Mary H. Webb Lee.
- William Lee & Joshua Lee. Both of these men died in the Civil War, members of Cumberland Guards, Regt. A, 33rd Infantry of Mississippi Volunteers.

**Household #257**

Aaron Lee Sr. age 69

Mary age 67

Martha Ingram age 70

**Household #258**

Aaron Lee Jr. age 32

Caroline age 19

Alexander Henry age 23

**1860 CENSUS INDEX**

Salter

- |            |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|
| 1. D.M.    | 150 |     |
| 2. D.S.    |     | 150 |
| 3. David   | 93  |     |
| 4. Edny    | 153 |     |
| 5. John S. | 155 |     |
| 6. William | 93  |     |

**1860 NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI CENSUS****Household 602:**

S.A. Saulter (Salter), age 32

Theodosia, wife, age 25

Children:

Clementine, age 4

Robert P., age 1

William Washington (father), age 54

David A. Salter (brother), age 18

**Household 966:**

D. M. Salter, age 50

Mary A., age 43

Mary, age 18

Eli, age 14 (killed in Civil War)

John H., age 12

Living in the same household:

Nancy Jones, age 25

Eli C., age 4

James L., age 6

**Household 971:**

Joel Lee

\*Living here was Elma Salter, age 16

**Household 981:**

Isaac Crosby, age 24

Martha (Salter), age 23

Susan C., age 1

(This is a sister to David Michael Sr.)

I believe the wife of William R. Tindle



(Tindol) was Mary E., the sister Isaac Ingram's wife, Deliah.

**Household 997:**

William F. Gamblin

\*Living here was John S. Salter, age 21

**1870 NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI CENSUS****Index lists Neshoba County:**

Ann Salter, p. 165  
David M. Salter, p. 170  
David S. Salter, p. 170  
John H. Salter, p. 169  
Lucy Salter, p. 186  
Samuel A. Salter, p. 186

No listing for Isaac (Ike) Crosby or any family member

**Household 1266:**

Francis Ann Salter, age 20

**Household 1268:**

David M. Salter, age 60  
Mary Ann, age 59  
Mary, age 29

**Household 1269:**

David S. Salter, age 31  
Francis E., age 30  
Eugenia, age 8  
Susa, age 3  
Thomas E., age 2

**Household 1270:**

John W. Coghlan, age 35  
Nancy (Salter), age 35  
Alice  
Lucie

**1880 NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI CENSUS****Household 230:**

John W. Salter, age 32  
Mary E., age 24  
Joe W., age 7  
Libby, age 4  
John E., age 3  
Ammye E.A., age 1

**Household 16:**

David S. Salter, age 41  
Francis, age 40  
Eugene, age 19  
Susan, age 15  
Thomas E., age 12  
Eddie, age 6  
William L., age 5  
Charles, age 2  
David S., Jr., age 6/12

**Household 17:**

David M. Salter, age 70  
Mary A., age 69

**Household 27:**

Samuel A. Salter, age 53  
Theodocia, age 48  
Mary E., age 18  
Minnie, age 06

**Household 29:**

John H. Salter, age 31  
Francis A., age 30  
Robert, age 9  
Emma, age 7  
Albert, age 5  
Roseanna, age 1

**Household 24:**

Nancy Coghlan, age 36  
Cora, age 12  
Della, age 10  
Henry M., age 8  
Delilia A., age 6

**Household 30:**

Robert P. Salter, age 21  
Martha, age 26

**1900 NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI CENSUS****Household 185:**

Robert E. Salter, age 29 (b. 9-1-1870)  
Sudie E., age 27 (b. 5-1873)

**Household 219:**

Charley Salter, age 22 (b. 11-1877)  
Elma L., age 16 (b. 10-1883)  
(Sister to Emmette Lafayette Thornton)

**Household 220:**

David S. Salter, age 61 (b.9-1839)  
Francis E., age 61 (b.3-1839)  
Truma G., age 20 (b. 1-1880)  
Edgar Salter Boader, age 26 (b.8-1873)  
Roxy Land (Companion) age 36 (b.8-1864)

**Household 270:**

John H. Salter, age 51 (b.12-1848)  
Francis A., age 50  
Rosa L., age 21  
Henry C., age 19  
Alma L., age 16  
Baron G., age 14  
John C., age 11  
Effie L., age 9

**Household 275:**

William Salter, age 24  
Mattie D., age 16  
Otis S., age 1

**MARRIAGES**  
**NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**  
**1877-1889**

GROOM	BRIDE	DATE	PAGE
F. M. Pool	Eugenia Salter	1881	368
R. P. Salter	M. F. Franklin	1879	195
L. Stanton	M. H. Salter	1881	356

**BOOK II**

W. E. Willis	Sudie Salter	1883	74
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## CLOSE FRIENDS

I am enclosing the names and addresses of friends and relatives I have become acquainted with in doing the Salter research.

1. **Mavis Salter Tingle**, Neshoba County Library, Philadelphia, MS 39350

Mavis goes back to David Michael Salter, born 1809, to Samuel to James.

2. **Stanley Claude Salter, V.P.**, N.B.C. Bank, Main Street, Philadelphia, MS 39350

Stanley is a very close friend and goes back to David Michael to Samuel to James.

3. **Mrs. Gertrude J. Stephens**, 2 Lee Circle, Spanish Fort, Alabama 36527

Gertrude and I are good friends and she is the person most responsible for this writer obtaining much of his information. She goes to Nancy Garlington, sister to David Michael Salter, b. 1813 to Samuel, b. 1782 to James, b. 1755.

4. **Eric Jason Laxo**, 506 Woodhurt Drive, Coppell, Texas 75019

Eric and I have just recently met and found that we are kin on both sides of my mother's family, the Salter's and the Thornton's. Eric goes to Sylvia Nell Salter to Joe Edwin Salter to Charley Salter to David Michael, Jr. to David Michael, Sr. to Samuel to James, b. 1755.

5. **Mary Lou Lisenbe**, 126 Minnesota Avenue, El Cajon, California 92020-6114

Mary Lou and I began corresponding through an ad in the paper. She has many pages of information on the different Salter families. At this time, were not sure we are kin or not, but I claim her because she is such an extraordinary nice person. She goes back to W. I. Salter, b. 1818. W. I. married Nancy Hunt, b. 1822 and had the following children:

1. Mary Salter, b. 1842
2. William L. Salter, b. 1843
3. John Wesley Salter, b. 1845
4. Obediah J. Salter, b. 1848
5. James Andrew Salter, b. 1850
6. Nancy C. Salter, b. 1852
7. Henry R. Salter, b. 1854
8. Sarah A. Salter, b. 1859

6. **Arlene Graves**, 359 Cascade, Clinton, MS

Arlene and I are kin on both my mother's side and my father's side. She has done extensive research on both the Crosswell and Salter families. She is a dear cousin and friend.

7. **Denvile Saulter**, Route 2, Box 53, Seminary, MS 39479

Denvile and I have become close friends and we believe we go back to the same Salter clan. Denvile will be coming out with a book soon. He has a very serious health problem and can only talk on the phone rather than write. Denvile's phone number is (601) 722-4700.

8. **Bert Crowson**, 7613 Shoal Creek Road, Austin, Texas 78757



# **DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL SALTER**

**As they are related to TIM CROSWELL**

Samuel Salter, #38 (1782 -1834) m. Mary (Polly) Cummins #39 (1779- )	Great-Great-Great-Grandfather
William Washington Salter, #40 m. Mary Edna Lee #51	Great-Great-Great Uncle
Samuel L. Salter, #85 (1827-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
Nancy Salter, #86 (1834-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
Josephine Salter, #87 (1836-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
John Salter #88 (1838-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
David Salter, #89, (1842-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
Edna Salter, #90, (1844-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
Roxanna Salter, #91, (1846-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
Joseph Henry Salter, #92 (1831-)	First Cousin, Thrice Removed
Eli Salter, #41 (1805) m. Susan Wood, #52	Great-Great-Great-Uncle
Watkins Salter, #42, (1805) m. Sara Jane Walton #53	Great-Great-Great Uncle
Samuel Cresswell Salter #43 (1807-1834)	Great-Great-Great Uncle
David Michael Salter #34 (1807) m. Mary C. Huff #35 (1808)	Great-Great Grandfather
Mary Salter #27 (March 10, 1841) m. John Thomas Ingram #26(3/13/1853-2/8/1928)	Great-Grandmother
Charlie Hugh Ingram #28 (01-05-1881) m. Bessie Hembree #62	Great-Uncle
Colie Mae Ingram #13 (9/11/1882-2/17/1967) m. (1920) Emmette LaFayette Thornton #12 (10/1878-8/28/1952)	Grandmother
Helen Marie Thornton #17 (9/19/1902-12/8/1975) m. (1920) Walter Newton Crosswell #6 (12/12/1882-6/4/1972)	Mother
Walter Patrick Crosswell #8 (09-25-1924)	Brother
James Everette Crosswell #9 (12-02-1929)	Brother
Ted Brice Crosswell #10 (02-14-1932)	Brother

Tim Croswell #1 (03-18-1940) m. (4-16-1966) Mary Charlotte Hardy #2 (5-23-1946)	Myself
Patrick Timothy Croswell #3 (10-30-1968)	Son
Kimberly Suzanne Croswell #4 (1-16-1970)	Daughter
Andrea Michelle Croswell Little #5 (1-10-1973) m. (5-4-1990) Jeffrey Little (12-27-70)	Daughter
Joshua Andrew Little #6 (09-26-1990)	Grandson
Tom Croswell #11 (03-18-1940)	Brother
Clifton Lamar Cannon #15 (08-15-1907)	Uncle
Frank Cannon #16 (01-11-1911)	Uncle
Mary Ingram #29 (05-13-1884)	Great Aunt
John Wesley Franklin #300 (C.1892)	Great Uncle
Ella Gertrude (Sudie) Franklin #31 (C. 1894)	Great Aunt
Cora Mae Franklin #32 (10-1-1899)	Great Aunt
James Isaac Ingram #33	Great Uncle
Eli Salter #36 (C.1856)	Great-Great Uncle
John Henry Salter #37 (1858)	Great-Great Uncle
Martha Salter #44 (1810) m. Alsay H. Lee #54	Great-Great-Great Aunt
Nancy Garlington Salter #45 (1813) m. John "Pealicker" Johnson #55	Great-Great-Great Aunt
John G. Salter #46	Great-Great-Great Uncle
Thomas H. Salter #47	Great-Great-Great Uncle
Eliza C. Salter #48 m. Edward C. Betts #56	Great-Great-Great Aunt

#### NOTE

This writer has spent many hours researching the Salter family. I hope it will help you to understand your roots and give you an intense pride in your family

I would very much like to hear your comments if you read this book. Please write or call and let me hear from you.

I would especially like to have any new information the reader may be able to provide. We will add this to our files.



## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

OTHER ALLIED FAMILIES  
NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

## INGRAM

I have not been able to find out as much as I would like to on the Ingram family. Let's begin with what is known.

The Ingrams were in Neshoba County as early as 1850. The 1850 Census of Neshoba County lists the following:

1. A. L. farm 156
2. J. farm 163
3. Joseph farm 190
4. Lavend farm 93
5. Lucinda farm 510

I do not know the kindred relationship between these Ingrams and the ones that this writer is kin to. I feel that all of these are kin but I have not been able to establish the relationship.

The 1860 Neshoba County Census lists the following Ingrams living in the County:

1. A.L. p. 151
2. Isaac p. 152
3. Isam p. 158
4. Joseph p. 151
5. Louversol p. 90
6. Sampson p. 151

There is a strong family connection between the following families: Ingram, Lee, Salter and Coghlan. I have been able to establish some of the relationships but not in depth. I believe Aaron Lee's wife and Isaac may have been brother and sister. This would be an interesting project for someone to pursue. The Tindol family is also connected to these early Ingram settlers as well as the McMillan family.

The 1860 Census provides the following information on the family of Isaac Ingram:

Isaac Ingram, age 41 born in Alabama

Delilah A., age 30, born in South Carolina

Children:

William H., age 12

Martha E., age 9

John Tom, age 7

James M., age 4

Aaron S. L., age 2

Mary E., age 1/2 year

The most significant thing we learn here is that Delilah was born in South Carolina. When her family started into the South West, she met and married Isaac in Alabama. We can tell from the birth of their first child that Isaac was approximately 28 or 29 and Delilah was 18 when they married. I have not determined when they arrived in Mississippi but it was probably around 1847 or 1848. I believe many answers to these questions can be found by back tracking Aaron Lee and Samuel Tindol. I believe there is a very strong kinship here. Samuel Tindol would have been born around 1799.

The odd thing next is that Isaac does not show up on the 1870 Census. Delilah is listed as the head of the house. Could it have been that Isaac was killed in the Civil War?

We know the following of the early Ingrams who fought in the Civil War:

- A. L. - Co. G. 6th MS Calvary
- J. - Co. G. 2nd MS Calvary
- Joseph - Co D. 28th MS Infantry
- Lovett - Co D. 42nd MS Infantry
- Isaac - Co F. 2nd MS Infantry

I believe that Isaac enlisted and fought in the Civil War as did all his neighbors. Since he does not show up on the 1870 Census we can assume that his life was lost in the War. This would mean that Mary Salter Ingram lost her brother and father-in-law in the Civil War.

There is another unusual story that the 1870 Census reveals. Out of eight Ingram families on the 1870 Census, six of them lists women as head of the household.

The 1870 Census reveals the following Ingram families:

1. Aaron L. Ingram p. 180
2. Cathanne Ingram p. 26
3. Delilah A. Ingram p. 181
4. Elmanta D. Ingram p. 169
5. Vorince O. Ingram p. 96
6. Mary Ingram p. 185
7. Mary J. Ingram p. 28

J., Joseph, Levette, Isaac and others are missing from the above Census records. The Civil War took its toll on the Ingram men. In studying the records there were cripples, invalids and sickly returning home from the war. We cannot say for certain that Isaac died in the Civil War. Since he did not show up on the 1870 Census we feel like this is a logical answer. We do not know if Isaac was buried on the battlefield or if he was brought back to Neshoba County. There is no conformation for either case.

From 1870 on Delilah will be the head of the household. On the 1880 Census, we find John Tom and Mary living in Household 27 and Delilah, age 55, James M., age 25 and Aaron S. L., age 22, living in Household 28. Both John Tom and Delilah have a farm hand living on the farm with them.

Since there is no Census records for the year 1890, we do not know exactly when Delilah died or where she is buried. Delilah does not show up on the 1900 Census records so we can assume that she died in the 20 year period from 1880 to 1900. Delilah had to raise six children alone so her life on the farm must have been very hard. Someday, hopefully there will be a more complete story of this family and their children. This writer has no other information on the children of Isaac and Delilah other than John Tom and Mary. John Tom and Mary must have done what they could to help Delilah because she always lived next door to them.

John Tom Ingram and Mary Salter married late for children of this age. To this union were born three children. They are Charlie Hugh, Colie Mae, and Mary Caroline. We think Mary Caroline died in the yellow fever epidemic that was to invade Neshoba County and claim many lives. Mary Caroline will be buried on the home place. Eventually Mary will be laid to rest beside her daughter. This property is in the Willis family now, who descended from David Michael Salter, Sr.

John Tom and Mary had a good life on the farm. John Tom built a two story house for his family that was one of the nicest in the area. After the death of Delilah and "Little Mary Caroline" John Tom started wandering with his family. Records are very sketchy as to how many farms he owned or why he moved so often. (Sometimes after my grandmother Colie Mae married she took to raise three of four children that had lost their mother. They were John Franklin, Cora Mae Franklin and Ella Franklin.) I have written this story on the previous pages of this book. For some reason my grandmother was forced to give these children up to live with John Tom and Mary. After these children came to live with them, John Tom and Mary move to Ora, Mississippi. Ora is a small community near Collins, Mississippi. What led John Tom and Mary to Ora has been lost in our oral history. No one knows just how long the family lived there.

Mary was always sickly and suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis. She was never able in later years to do any type of heavy work. This confined her to chores in and around the house. She was never happy at Ora, being so far from her children. Mary and Colie were very close and will remain that way until her



death. Mary sought solace in the Church and was baptized a member of the Baptist Church there.

Emmette and Colie had moved to Lepanto, Arkansas. I do not know why or how long they stayed there but it upset Mary to be so far away.

Colie received a letter from her brother, Charlie Hugh, that I will write in full here.

Colie also received a letter from her Aunt checking on John Tom that I am also writing here. These letters give us a little insight into two members of the family.

Waldo, Miss., Nov. 6, 1899

Miss Colie Ingram,

Dear Sister,

I will drop you a few lines to-night - This leaves me - but I have a severe cold, it is some better now.

Hope this will find you all well. Tell Pa that I went to see that Indian last Saturday but he was not at home. I saw his boy and told him my business. He talked like they were going to stay where they are another year. I told the boy to tell his father to go over home to see Pa if he wanted to trade in fact, told the boy what I would have told the old Indian. If he does not come this week they thing is done. I told the boy if he went to go about Wednesday. Guess you had a fine time going to Meridian last week.

Things are as dull as the duce over here.

A big Show in Kosciusko the 15th of this month. I'm going if there is any possible chance. I don't intend to live always and then not see anything. Wishing you a good time. I am, your brother,

Charlie Ingram

Write soon

Kosciusko, Miss. October 14, 1924

Mrs. Colie Cannon

Dear Colie,

It been some time since I heard from any of you so I will write you again to see if i can hear what has become of your papa. I have last sight of him I would like to hear from him as soon as possible. My health is bad as can be though I stay up all the time. I had all my teeth pulled - thought that would be the cause. Colie, I hope you are doing fine. How are crops over there? They do very well considering dry weather. I seen Dr. Bob Pope a few days. He ask me where your papa was. I couldn't tell him. I had lost your address. Mr. Leon Lenady told me one. I read your first letter you written and it never got no answer to it. I know whether it reached or not. I'll quit for this time as I don't know any news. Answer real soon to your . Love and best wishes to all.

M. S. Cooper

Address your letter to Mrs. W. T. Davis, Jr.

RHD1

\*Was a sister to John Thomas Ingram. Daughter of Isaac Ingram.

Mary and John Tom continued to live in Ora, MS until Mary's death in 1905. Sometime prior to her mother dying, Colie and her children go back home to live a short while after Emmette Thornton had left them.

John Tom, the Franklin children (John, Ella, and Cora), Colie Mae, and her children all move back to Neshoba County. Where for sure, I do not know. John Tom will eventually meet and marry Ida (Mattie) Standard sometime around 1906. John Tom and Ida will have one son they name Isaac. Mattie contacts T. B. and her life with John Tom and Isaac is a short one. Oral history of the family says that she died while Isaac was very young, perhaps 10 or 12 years of age. No one knows where Ida is buried and I've not been able to find out.

The story goes that John Tom does not do well after the death of Mattie and that little by little he looses everything that he has farmed so hard to get. Isaac is supposedly raised by various relatives until he is big enough to go to work. Isaac takes care of John Tom in his last years in Kosciusko, MS. John Tom is brought back and buried at Bloomfield Cemetery close to where Monroe Code Cannon and Colie are living in the Bloomo Community.

Since Charlie and Colie were very close, I imagine that he was responsible for finding out about the Franklin children and arranging for three of them to live with Colie and Emmette. The fourth child, Mace, lived with his father and is raised by John J. Cannon, Code's father.

Uncle Charlie and Aunt Bessie as they were called by mother were very successful at farming. They will have a nice house and large farm just west of Philadelphia. Uncle Charlie's and Aunt Bessie's children were very fond of Aunt Colie and wrote and visited often.

Charlie Hugh Ingram b. 1881 d. 1959 married Bessie Augusta Hembree b. 1884 d. 1963. Their children were:

Lester	Homer Lee	Ruth
Hugh	Mildred	
J. T.	Mary	

Bessie's parents were Jessie F. Hembree b. 1840 d. 1922 married Augusta Ellen Johnson b. 2-17-1846. Their children were:

1. Horace Greely Hembree b. 1871 m. Saphronia Henry
2. Jesse Cook Hembree, Sr. b. 1874 m. Sadie Joyner
3. Raiford William Hembree b. 1876 m. L. Pearl Cannon
4. Thomas Lincoln Hembree b. 1880 m. Sarah D. Peebles
5. Bessie Augusta Hembree b. 1884 m. Charlie Hugh Ingram

Jessie F. Hembree parents were Simon P. Hembree b. 1804 South Carolina who married Permille Donnington b. South Carolina. Their children:

1. Thomas Hembree b. 1832
2. Daniel Washington Hembree b. 1834
3. Mary Hembree b.
4. Jessie F. Hembree b. 1840
5. William P. Hembree
6. Allene Hembree b. 1842
7. Martha H. Hembree b. 1844
8. Theresa E.
9. Emeline E.
10. Elisa E.

\*The father of Simon Hembree was Edward Hembree b. 1765, South Carolina, who was the son of John Hembree b. 1725 in South Carolina.



## THORNTON

### EMMETTE LAFAYETTE THORNTON

I really have had to scrap to find out information on my grandfather. I do not remember Mother or Nannie ever talking very much about Emmette. I have wondered all my life why he didn't write often or call his children. Phone service was not very good in the number please days. As poor as it were, I believe he could have called.

My grandfather was approximately six feet tall of medium build with flaming red hair and blue eyes. I have never heard what caused Emmette and Colie to divorce. Growing up, Pa was the only grandfather I ever asked about. So while Nannie was living it was never brought up and Mother didn't know or either wouldn't talk about him except for small tidbits or shreds of information.

The information that I will share has been obtained from searching through library material for many hours. For a long time, I really didn't care much whether I found out or not. I do not know how I feel toward him, but for the sake of my children and cousins, I will write what I know.

Emmette Lafayette Thornton was born October 3, 1878. He married Colie Mae Ingram December 29, 1899. Emmette would have been 21 years old at the time of his marriage. Emmette bought eighty acres of land and built a large house in Beat 5 of Neshoba County.

To their union would be born two children:

1. Edgar Preston Thornton b. October 15 1900
2. Helen Marie Thornton b. September 19, 1902

Later Emmette and Colie will adopt or accept to rear three more children because their mother had died. They are:

1. John Franklin
2. Cora Mae Franklin
3. Ella Gertrude Franklin

Emmette's parents and Colie's parents were neighbors so from the census records, I was able to determine who Emmette's parents, brothers and sisters were.

Joseph William Thornton b. April 1854 Georgia and Francis Ann Taylor b. July 1856.

1. Emmette Lafayette Thornton b. 1878 m. Colie Ingram
2. James O. b. 1881 m. Mattie Hill
3. Elma L. b. 1883 m. Charlie Salter
4. Edna b. 1886 m. J. T. Hill
5. Harmond b. 1892
6. Myrta b. 1894
7. Irma

The parents of Francis Ann Taylor were James P. Taylor b. 1835 Alabama and Mary D. b. 1828 Alabama.

The Thorntons and Taylors only show up on the 1900 Census records. I have not been able to tell when or where Francis Ann Taylor's mother and father died or where they are buried. I would like to know when they came to Neshoba County and where from. They may have moved into Attala County. In searching for the Thorntons, I have made a few discoveries in Attala County.

Joseph William and Francis Ann had two children to die and are buried in Attala County. They are:

1. Virgil Thornton b. January 5, 1890 d. October 1, 1893
2. Lovie Myrtle Thornton b. August 8, 1888 d. August 12, 1888

Looking at these dates, we can see a child died before they came to Neshoba County and one died after they returned.

In checking the records, we find that for a brief period Joseph William Thornton served as a Justice

of the Peace in Neshoba County At this time, nothing more is known about our Great-Grandfather Thornton.

I have found another Emmette L. Thornton in Attala County, but he is not our grandfather. I do not know how two men came to have exactly the same name.

After Emmette Lafayette divorced Nannie, he headed westward for California. Checking the Social Security death records, I found the following death records:

1. Jerome Thornton  
Birthdate May 16, 1928  
Death Date October 1986  
Social Security No. 437-36-5976  
Death residence Long Beach, Los Angeles, California
2. Emmette Thornton  
Birthdate June 28, 1923  
Death date October 1983  
Social Security No. 433-22-5716  
Death residence Long Beach, Los Angeles, California

These are two sons of Emmette L. Thornton. From these records, we know that Emmette L. remarried and lived long enough in Louisiana for his sons to get Social Security cards. How long they lived there or when they continued on to California is still a mystery.

The only other information I have is a letter written to Mother telling of Emmette's death. The letter reads:

4904 No. Hershalt  
Long Beach, Calif.  
August 30, 1952

Dear Marie,

Just thought I would write you a few lines. I know you want to no about daddy's funeral. Services will be Wednesday, September 3 at 11:00 a.m. We will bury him at Sunnyside Cemetery in Long Beach just a few miles from his home. I think we are putting him away very nicely. We are spending close to a thousand dollars for his funeral. I only wish we could do better. We bought him a nice blue-grey suit, white shirt and nice tie. I know he will look very nice. Everything seemed to happen at once. We were just talking to him the day before and he seemed a little better. When I told him he had a letter from you, Edgar and Bertha, he just opened his eyes real big and had the sweetest smile on his face. I told him you would be praying for him, he seemed so happy. Mama took it pretty hard. She had a heart attack but is feeling much better now. We all tried to do everything we could for him so he could come home again. But I guess God wanted him more then we did. Mama said to tell you she would write you, Edgar and Bertha as soon as she got herself pulled together again. Will write after the funeral and let you know how everything is. Will also take some pictures of it and send them to you. Write soon and take care of yourself and don't work to hard.

Love,  
Marie

Most of the Thorntons I researched have lead good and useful lives. They have served in almost every capacity of life.